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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE

### LOCAL



Traditional lion dances will welcome today's Lunar New Year.

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### OFFBEAT



Hundreds of living and dead pythons are found inside a home.

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### LIFE & STYLE



Justin Bieber is charged with assault for allegedly hitting a Toronto driver.

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## FROM HOTELS TO STORES, EMPLOYERS HONE PLANS

# 11 months before exit of over 10K foreign workers

» **No decision yet as US Labor hears from 'other voices' that want aliens out of NMI after 2014**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Even restaurant food and pastries that the community has come to love may not taste the same again, and every other business from major hotels to lowly barber shops and manpower agencies supplying caregivers said they will either downsize or shut down when the transitional program that allows the CNMI access to some 10,000 skilled and professional foreign workers comes to an end on Dec. 31, 2014.

Foreign workers work on a meticulous waterline leak detection and repair project by the CNMI Water Task Force on Middle Road yesterday. There are only 11 months to go before the scheduled end of the Commonwealth-only worker program, which could spell disaster for the CNMI that has relied upon some 10,000 skilled and professional foreign workers for almost every aspect of its economy.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

As of last night, there's no decision yet from U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez whether to grant a five-year extension of the Commonwealth-only worker, or CW, program.

"It will be a disaster," Herman's Modern Bakery general manager Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "We've always maintained

**See EXIT on Page 4**

## 170 Tinian families soon to get homesteads

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

At least 170 families on Tinian will soon get their homestead permits so they can start building the home of their dreams, five years after the drawing of lots and 11 years since the project started. The Department of Public Lands said yesterday a groundbreaking for the West San

Jose Village Homestead will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

"This will be the last phase of this project. The village homestead will benefit 170 families," DPL Planning Division supervisor Patricia Rasa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rasa said five other village homestead sites are being developed on Tinian and are expected to accommodate at least 345

families.

Families will start getting their homestead permits that provide them three years to complete the requirements and build their homes.

"Once the permit holders have completed the requirements, it becomes their property and they get the deed to the property," Rasa added.

If, after three years they still

**See FAMILIES on Page 4**

## Farm bill passage means more food for NMI families

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives passed a long-delayed farm and food policy bill yesterday, including \$32.5 million aimed at bringing the full benefit of the national food stamp program, SNAP, to families in the Northern Marianas. The Senate is expected to approve the Federal Agri-

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**Probable cause found to charge alleged fugitive. PAGE 2**  
**PCF Marianas chapter names inaugural Fellows. PAGE 8**



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Probable cause found to charge alleged fugitive

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of a criminal case against alleged Hong Kong fugitive and property mogul Wei Zeng.

As this developed, known Guam immigration lawyer Nelson Xu, of the Baumann, Kondas and Xu LLC law firm, has joined attorney Bruce Berline as counsel for the 51-year-old Zeng, also known as Zhiquian Liu. Berline also told the court yesterday that a Hong Kong lawyer is arriving to meet Zeng.

At the preliminary hearing yesterday, Manglona ruled that the U.S. government has met the burden of proving that Zeng had committed the crime of making a false statement to a federal agency. Manglona cited each evidence that the U.S. government presented to support the finding of probable of cause.

Zeng will be arraigned on Feb. 10 at 9am.

The complaint alleges that Zeng knowingly made a materially false statement to U.S. Customs and Border Protection by declaring on his form I-736 that he has not previously applied for a U.S. immigrant or non-immigrant visa.

USCBP Form I-736 is a document that certain foreign-born, non-immigrant, non-visa holders visiting Guam or the CNMI must complete before entry.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton called to the witness stand Michael D. Lansangan, special agent with Homeland Security Investigations of the Department of Homeland Security. Lansangan confirmed with the court that there is now an extradition request for Zeng.

Naughton pointed out that question No. 8 in the Form I-736 reads, "Have you applied for an immigrant or non-immigrant U.S. visa before?", which Zeng marked "No."

Zeng's fingerprints in the computerized database records show that he has previously applied for and has been granted both immigrant and non-immigrant U.S. visa applications, Naughton said.

"It is clear a false statement was made," he added.

He noted that the Interpol's notice put Zeng on its watch-list. "That's a pretty good motive from being detected," Naughton said, referring to Zeng's use of a different identity on his passport.

Berline argued that the U.S. government failed to present evidence of who filled up and signed the I-736 form. He cited, among other things, that there was no testimony as to who gave the I-736 form.

"We heard from the agent that there's nothing wrong with that passport," he said.

Two Chinese male nationals watched the hearing yesterday. One told *Saipan Tribune* that he is the defendant's relative and that he came here from China on Wednesday.

The man said the defendant is "a good person."

A separate hearing will be held on Feb. 18 on the U.S. government's request to extradite Zeng.

Berline said he and attorney Xu will also represent Zeng in that matter.

This will be the first high-profile extradition between the U.S. and Hong Kong governments since Washington's failed bid to secure the return of former National Security Agency contractor and whistleblower Edward Snowden in June 2013.

Zeng was arrested on Jan. 16 when he reportedly used a different identity to try to enter

See FUGITIVE on Next Page

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# CNMI, Jorgensen, Woodruff have until today to file papers to OK settlements

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the CNMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave the CNMI government and Betty Johnson's counsels, Bruce Jorgensen and Stephen Woodruff, until today to file agreed motions to approve the settlements they've reached in the two lawyers' petitions for attorneys' fees and costs.

Sources said the amount involved in the settlements is to be kept confidential until the CNMI, Jorgensen, and Woodruff file their stipulated motions today.

In an order yesterday, Tydingco-Gatewood said the court held on Wednesday two teleconferences with the parties in Johnson's class action to discuss the status of their settlement negotiations with regard

to the petitions for attorneys' fees and costs.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the CNMI government advised her that it had reached settlements with both Jorgensen and Woodruff, but did not reach a settlement with Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel Bronster Hoshibata law firm or Johnson's other counsel, Timothy Lord.

Accordingly, the judge said oppositions/objections to the stipulated motions to approve the settlements between the CNMI and Jorgensen and Woodruff shall be filed by Feb. 19, 2014.

Replies to such oppositions/objections shall be filed no later than Feb. 24, 2014.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she will hold a hearing on the stipulated motions to approve on March 4, 2014, immediately following the presentation of

the Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C.H. Tang's report on the status of the settlement fund.

With respect to Bronster Hoshibata's petition, the judge will hold an evidentiary hearing on Monday at 8:30am. The hearing will be vacated if a settlement agreement is reached prior to the hearing and a stipulated motion to approve such a settlement will be heard on March 4.

Tydingco-Gatewood set the evidentiary hearing on Lord's petition for March 4 at 9am.

Bronster Hoshibata is demanding \$17.5 million, while Lord's initial demand was either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million. Woodruff's is seeking \$2.9 million.

Last week, Jorgensen filed a

"unified statement" in support of his fee petition, saying he is amenable to a 7 percent reduction of hours and fees, lowering his total billable hours to 3,678.7 hours and total fees to \$1,195,580.10. Jorgensen's

initial request was at least \$18.6 million.

Under the settlement agreement, the CNMI government will shoulder the attorneys' fees and costs of Johnson's counsels upon the court's approval.

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## CDA and Arctic Circle Air reach repayment deal on \$600K loan

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The new owner of Arctic Circle Air has initially agreed to repay the \$600,000 loan the airline company had borrowed from the Commonwealth Development Authority.

CDA director Manuel Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a repayment agreement is in the works between the agency and Arctic Circle, the cargo airline established by the late Anthony Pellegrino.

"The loan agreement is being finalized by both attorneys [of the parties] after the new owner agreed to the terms and conditions," Sablan said, adding that the work is nearing completion.

According to Sablan, the soon-to-be finalized deal will stipulate repayment terms of six months to a year until all obligations are settled with the authority. Included in the "default payment" is a 7-percent per annum interest, he added.

CDA released the \$600,000 to Arctic Circle in 2012 to be used supposedly as a pledge on the company's interim loan with the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the \$600,000 investment came with the condition that it would be converted into equity once the bank loan deal is finalized. However, that loan transaction never materialized. CDA now

wants the \$600,000 back.

In an earlier interview with Arctic Circle vice president Paul Zak, he said the \$600,000 was converted into a note, which is a contract stating the terms of a loan, such as the principal, the interest rate, and the payment schedule. This note was to be satisfied through monthly payments including accrued interest.

Arctic Circle Air welcomed a new investor last year through president Hee Cho of JMSH, LLC, which owns Rota Resort & Country Club. The largest hotel property on Rota has chartered Arctic Circle Air for passenger services from Saipan.

Cho is the majority shareholder, with investments of more than 51 percent in the airline company.

Arctic Circle Air's representation at the beginning of its venture is to provide a bridge between the Northern Marianas and Guam to promote agricultural exports. However, this changed later when the airline launched its passenger services and attracted new investors.

Zak disclosed that the company is now in the transportation business, which involves both cargo and passengers.

Meantime, CDA director Sablan said that the agency is awaiting a court decision pertaining to the bankruptcy case filed by Freedom Air, which owes CDA \$900,000, released as a loan in March 2012.

## FUGITIVE

From Page 2

Saipan from Shanghai, China. He sought admission using the name Zhi Qian Liu.

On July 4, 2011, the Hong Kong District Court issued a warrant for Zeng's arrest on the basis of charges that he

bribed a bank official in Hong Kong with a bag filled with HK \$2.3 million, the equivalent of \$300,000 in October 2010. The cash was allegedly a reward for the bank official's help in a multi-million Hong Kong dollar loan extension application and for giving favorable credit information relating to Zeng's two companies.

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## House PUTC shelves resolution urging CUC privatization

The House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee decided yesterday to shelve a Senate joint resolution asking the governor to commence privatizing the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp. now that CUC has issued request for proposals to help the CNMI move toward renewable energy.

"We will wait for the results of this RFP. There's no need to rush the privatization,"

House PUTC chair Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* after the committee meeting yesterday afternoon.

The House PUTC panel, however, decided to recommend

passage of Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) bill authorizing management audit of CUC.

But Deleon Guerrero said the committee report has yet to be finalized so it won't be acted on in today's House session.

The Office of the Public Au-

ditor also expressed its support to the CUC management audit

bill, with proposed changes to it. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

### ERRATUM

In the story "Firm to build new visitor attraction" that was published yesterday, it erroneously reported that Sea Touch Saipan will feature manta rays and turtles. In fact, the company only said it will feature sharks and stingrays. The mistake was ours. Our apologies.

## FAMILIES

From Page 1

have not met the requirements, the families need to justify this with DPL or their homestead permit will be revoked.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) separately said yesterday that DPL's announcement

of a groundbreaking is "welcome news."

"It's about time the families get their homestead permits. They have waited long enough for this," Conner said on Capitol Hill.

The lawmaker said a \$1.7-million appropriation under the budget law helped pave the way for the Tinian home-

stead project to move forward.

As to who should fund other infrastructure needs such as power and water, Conner said this issue is still subject to interpretation. DPL's Rasa echoed this.

DPL's Rasa said the Feb. 5 groundbreaking for the West San Jose Village Homestead at 10:30am will be led by Gov.

Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council, among others.

In 2009, DPL under then secretary John Del Rosario held a drawing of lots for 429 Tinian families who have

waited for years for a place to build their homes.

Each homestead lot has a size of anywhere between 800 square meters and 1,000 sq.m.

The groundbreaking also comes some two months after the governor signed last year an over \$656,000 contract for Pacific Cooperation Ltd. to start construction of a road and

ponding basin for the West San Jose Homestead Subdivision on Tinian. This was months after receiving sealed bids on the "right-of-way and excavation of the ponding basin for the homestead subdivision project.

The work includes the grubbing, grading, and construction of approximately 11, 918 linear feet of road.

## FOOD

From Page 1

culture Reform and Risk Management Act, the FARRM bill, next week. And the President, too, is expected to support the bipartisan agreement. The vote in the House was 251 to 166.

"We are part of the American family, so our families deserve the same help putting food on the table that other Americans receive," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "Getting the Northern Marianas into SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, means equal benefits for our people. And that is what the farm bill will help us accomplish."

Currently, the Northern Marianas receives a block grant from the federal government for its local food stamp program. The block grant does not change, when the number of families getting benefits goes up. Each family just gets less assistance.

In nearby Guam, which is under the national program, benefits are double what they are in the Northern Marianas. And

when the number of beneficiaries increases, federal funding rises, too.

"A family of four in the NMI gets \$444 a month," explained Sablan. "A family of four in Guam gets \$931. That's not fair. But this new \$32.5 million we added to the farm bill will raise benefits here in the Northern Marianas and fix the unfairness."

The bill sets up a five-year pilot program for the Northern Marianas that begins with a \$2 million feasibility study in 2014 and 2015 and then raises benefits in the following three years. Even if the study shows that SNAP will not work in the islands, the Commonwealth's existing block grant program will still receive \$30.5 million for benefits in addition to its current funding.

### Years of work pay off

Sablan has been working to get more food for poor families, since he was first elected to Congress in 2009. When SNAP benefits went up 13.6 percent in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that year, Sablan convinced Secretary of Agricul-

ture Tom Vilsack to increase the Northern Marianas block grant by the same 13.6 percent.

With benefits being cut in the Marianas as more people needed help, Sablan got Congress to add another \$1 million to the annual funding in 2011 and kept that money there every year since.

"But even with those increases, our families were still getting less than other Americans," Sablan recalls.

"So in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress I became a member of the House Agriculture Committee. Over the next two years, as the farm bill was being drafted, I made the case at hearings and in private conversations with Chairman Frank Lucas and his Democratic counterpart Collin Peterson for adding the Northern Marianas to the national program.

"I will always be grateful to both of these leaders. They saw the need and added money for the Northern Marianas, even though the larger bill cut funding for SNAP nationwide by \$8.6 billion."

### Local capacity

decision until the end of June 2014, he—like many others throughout the community—wants this decision "sooner rather than later."

"What I can say is that the Secretary has to make a complex and difficult decision. I think an extension is best for our economy. But Department of Labor officials are also hearing other voices in the Marianas saying they want all foreign workers to be gone by the end of this year even if that is detrimental to our economy and that has negative impact on local government revenues," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said his office continues to work with officials of the U.S. Department of Labor on the CW program.

Sablan and Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked for a five-year extension of the CW program, while at the same time working to ensure more U.S. workers get training to be able to eventually fill most private sector positions.

"The decision to extend or to not extend the transition period is for Secretary Perez to make. And we will continue to urge him to make it sooner rather than later," the delegate added.

A beauty and barbershop in

Sablan said that even with yesterday's vote and expected enactment of the new law, there were more steps to take to bring the Northern Marianas into SNAP.

"We have given the Agriculture Department \$2 million to begin immediately looking at how we can implement SNAP in the Marianas. In this initial study the department will be asking whether the Commonwealth has the administrative capability. I think we do.

"Is it feasible to set up the plastic credit card system the rest of the country uses to replace the paper food stamps we still have here in the Marianas? I think it is feasible. And the electronic benefit system, the EBT, will help us reduce the reselling of paper stamps and other kinds of fraud that can give the program a bad name."

The Agriculture Department will also look closely at education and job training opportunities in the Northern Marianas.

"We don't want food stamps to be a way of life," Sablan said. "This is a safety net to help people until they can help themselves. We want to see

more people saying goodbye to food stamps and other public assistance, because they have good-paying jobs and can feed themselves and their families on their own."

Another consideration of the study will be whether the Commonwealth government is able to pay its half of SNAP's administrative costs. Sablan commissioned a report by the former Commonwealth Secretary of Finance, Bob Schrack, in 2011 to answer this question.

"The Schrack report was very clear: increasing SNAP benefits coming into our economy will increase tax local revenues. So the program will pay for itself with revenue to spare.

"The increased economic activity will also create jobs in transportation, in stores, up and down the food supply lines," Sablan said.

### \$30.5M for benefits

Once the study is complete and it is determined that it is feasible to launch SNAP in the Northern Marianas, the Agriculture Department will begin to work with the Commonwealth gov-

decided to not be employed, not because there's no job available to them," Guerrero added.

Herman's Modern Bakery has been supplying products to DFS Galleria and McDonald's. Should the bakery loses its expert bakers, for example, Guerrero said the taste and quality may never be the same.

"Baking is a hard work and requires creativity and expertise. In baking, it's either you have it or you don't," he added.

Guerrero said both the Public School System and Northern Marianas College "have to step up" in preparing students to become employable individuals.

"Employers pay \$150 for every foreign worker we hire. We don't see the results of that yet," he added.

While J's Restaurant could survive, albeit with difficulty, Jet Holdings' Tenorio said he is most worried about hotels' operations.

"I sympathize with hotels who would have difficulty replacing foreign workers that they have come to rely on. And I believe the 5,000 unemployed residents that the CNMI Labor secretary has been saying is too high. She's probably counting the retirees, too," Tenorio said.

ernment to set up the program.

Benefits are expected to rise. There will be \$13.5 million in new money available for benefits beginning in October 2015. Then there are an additional \$8.5 million for benefits in 2016 and again in 2017—\$30.5 million all together.

That money will be in addition to the food stamp grant the Commonwealth now receives, which was over \$12.148 million in the fiscal 2014 appropriation act Congress passed earlier this month.

In the event the study determines that SNAP is not feasible in the Northern Marianas, all of the \$30.5 million will still be available for benefits until it is completely expended.

"But the real goal," Sablan repeated, "is to be fully incorporated into the national program. And just when our 5-year pilot program is nearing its end in 2017, it will be time for Congress to reauthorize farm and food policy again, the perfect legislative opportunity to finish the job of giving us equal participation in SNAP as part of the American family." (*PR*)

He added that the proposed \$7.25 CNMI minimum wage would spell more difficulty for business when he believes that the current \$5.55 an hour "is already comparable to the \$7.25 an hour in the U.S. because in the CNMI, we don't pay property tax, we don't pay state tax, and we have a rebate system."

Jet Holdings has 59 employees right now, and 21 of them are U.S. citizens or green card holders.

Barbecue stands, construction companies, automotive repair shops and every other small to large companies share the same uncertainty whether they would still have access to foreign workers beyond 2014.

The government and private sector employers, even if they have been stepping up training and employing as many U.S. workers as possible, concede that the CNMI needs more time to fill most private sector jobs with U.S. workers.

CNMI Labor secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero said one of the goals is to increase the traffic of job seekers involving U.S. workers and job referrals in preparation for the end of the CW transition period.

## EXIT

From Page 1

a certain quality of baking. If we lose our valued foreign workers, even the delicious buns we make for McDonald's could taste different."

The three head chefs at J's Restaurants, also a food institution in the CNMI like Herman's Modern Bakery, are all holders of CW permits that are valid only until Dec. 31, unless the program is extended.

"We would have to downsize, instead of a 24-hour operation. It would have a tremendous impact on us. J's Restaurant will still be open but it's not going to be the same," Juan S. Tenorio, president of Jet Holdings, which operates the two J's Restaurant branches, separately said.

Diamond Auto Parts, one of the major retailers of automotive parts on island, is also sure to take a hit if it loses access to its long-term foreign workers whom the business has relied on for 21 years.

"Maybe the business won't close but sales could further weaken. It's already been getting weak, it's going to get worse," said general manager



# CPUC reviews convenience fee CUC collects from customers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s \$1.50 "convenience fee" that it assesses customers who pay their bills using the phone or Internet is now under review by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, after the panel expressed a desire to temporarily suspend the collection of this fee.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero said all commissioners—himself, Dave Guerrero, and Oscar Quitugua—have initially discussed the matter and are leaning toward suspending it for the moment.

During public rate hearings in December, CUC customers aired their concern over the \$1.50 convenience fee, saying it was unclear if the fee had been approved by CPUC.

"There's discussion among commissioners that we would like this convenience fee waived pending review, in the hopes that it will lower the cost for everybody. We would like to order that this fee be temporarily suspended," said Guerrero during Monday's rate hearing.

CUC officials opposed this and appealed for consideration due to the corporation's cash flow situation.

According to CUC general counsel James Sirok, CUC is concerned that if the convenience fee is stopped at this time, this will impact the revenues anticipated by CUC for

its operational needs and would result in a shortfall.

Sirok suggested that CUC be given ample time to submit information about the convenience fee before the commission decides to have it stopped.

For now, he asked that CUC be allowed to continue collecting the convenience fee until the CPUC reaches a final decision. He recommended that the issue be tabled for the April regulatory session of the commissioners.

According to CPUC hearing examiner Harry Boertzel, the commission has to consider Sirok's reasonable proposal. The convenience fee was later put on status quo pending documents to be filed by CUC for the spring decision.

"Either you leave the fee in place or we could have parties submit briefs for commission's decision in April," said Boertzel who participated in Monday's hearing through teleconference.

Prior to ending the discussion on the convenience fee, CPUC chair Guerrero urged CUC to issue a notice to customers that the "convenience fee" is under CPUC review.

Additionally, Guerrero ordered CPUC consultant Georgetown Consulting to conduct independent review of the fee and its recommendation on the issue. All this will be finalized at the spring session.

## Billing practice

The CPUC also tasked its con-

sultant to investigate CUC's practice of using estimated figures in billing customers. The report is due before the spring meeting for CPUC's consideration.

"In some jurisdiction 'estimating' is prohibited and that's one area that Georgetown will look at," said Guerrero.

Based on the hearing examiner's report to the CPUC: "It is worth noting that Guam has a strict statutory restrictions on estimated and back billing. The undersigned recommends that Georgetown be tasked with examining CUC's estimated and back billing practices and to make recommendations for appropriate regulatory action at the spring session, including the need for remedial legislation."



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## Bench warrant out vs ex-firefighter

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has issued a bench warrant against former firefighter Combiano I. Taisakan, who failed to appear at a status conference in connection with his 2010 criminal conviction.

In an order yesterday, Camacho set a \$215 bail for Taisakan.

Taisakan failed to appear at a status conference on Wednesday at 9am. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government at the conference.

Probation officer Oscar Torres asked the court to revoke Taisakan's probation for non-compliance with his probation conditions. The former firefighter's probation was set to expire yesterday.

In his status report, Torres disclosed that Taisakan made a total payment of \$285 as of Dec. 18, 2013, and has a remaining balance of \$215 for the \$500 fine.

Otherwise, Torres said, Taisakan fully complied with the other conditions of his three-

year probation.

In March 2010, a Superior Court jury found Taisakan guilty of theft for selling a boat engine that belonged to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office to another firefighter and his wife for \$300 between June 6 and August 2007. The couple made two separate payments to Taisakan totaling \$140.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Taisakan to three days in prison and placed him on three years of supervised probation. The judge barred him

from being employed by the CNMI government for the duration of his probation.

In October 2012, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the Department of Public Safety rehired Taisakan and assigned him to administration and logistics.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Taisakan is no longer employed with DPS. Deleon Guerrero was not the commissioner when Taisakan was rehired.

Probation officer Torres disclosed that Taisakan has been unemployed since May 30, 2013.



Camacho



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## Fees collected for failed \$10M loan to stay with CUC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Hopes are dim for ratepayers who are counting on the return of the money charged them for the failed \$10 million loan of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. after the regulatory commission initially ruled that it will not require CUC to return the funds to customers.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission made the ruling after hearing the recommendation of its consultant, Georgetown Consulting Services, who was tasked to review and assess the matter.

It will be recalled that CUC was authorized in December 2011 to apply for a \$10 million loan with the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank to address the requirements of federal stipulated orders. CUC was allowed to increase its base

rates so it could raise the funds needed to pay off the loan.

When the \$10 million loan failed to push through, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution in 2012 mandating CUC to reimburse customers for all sums collected related to the failed \$10 million loan. But this didn't happen.

On Monday, the CPUC decided that, "in light of the liquidity crisis and the need to fund [stipulated order] capital projects, CUC should not be required to reimburse to ratepayers for any portion of the revenue stream" established by the then-CPUC order in June 2011.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC managed to collect \$2.5 million from ratepayers. This amount, according to its officials, was used to perform SO projects (\$1.5 million) and for business expenses (\$1.02 million).

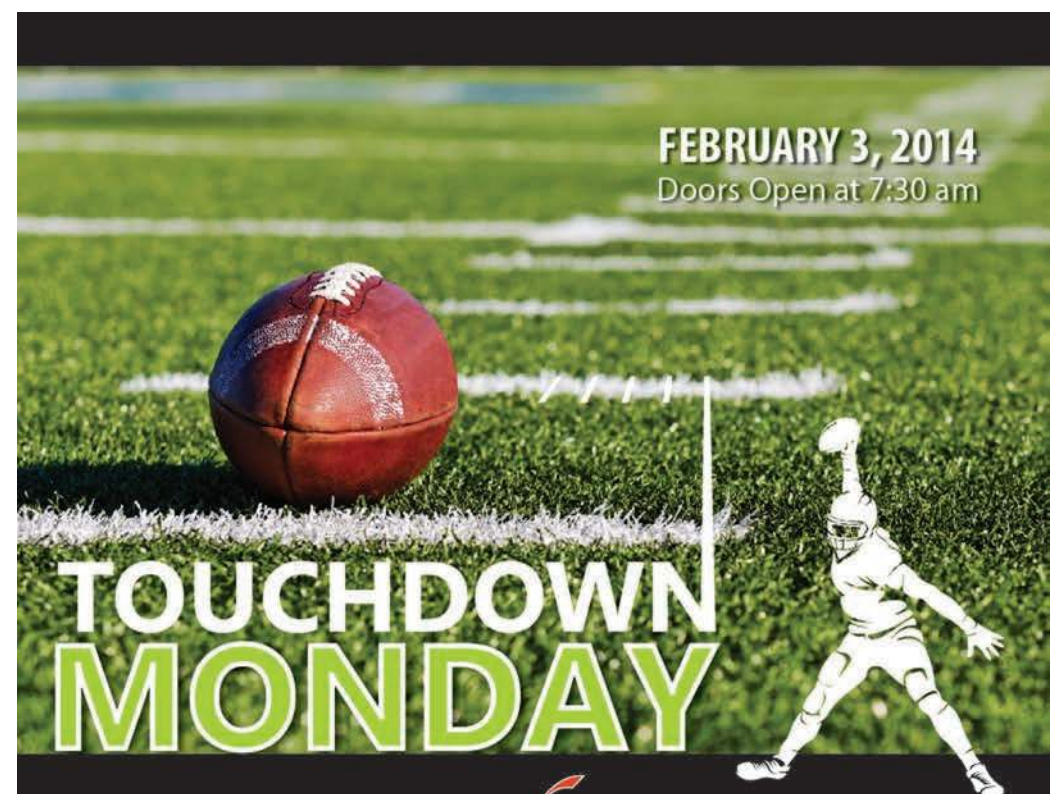
Georgetown disclosed Mon-

day that the "collections" were primarily used to substantially fulfill the same projects and undertaking if the \$10 million loan had been successful.

Prior to deciding on the matter, CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero asked if the law that authorized the \$10 million loan also allowed the use of funds for the agency's "business expenses." This issue, however, was justified by CUC and Georgetown, citing the corporation's liquidity crisis.

It was also disclosed that the \$3.8 million base rate increase on Aug. 2, 2011, did not separately set out the \$1.02 million in revenue requirements that CUC believed would be necessary to service the debt.

Based on the audited report of CUC in fiscal year 2012, the agency incurred an operating loss of \$6.2 million in running its utilities: power, water, and wastewater.



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#### DONATION

Arielle Buyum, vice president of the Turtle Advocate and Guardian Society, presents a donation check to Becky Furey, interim executive director of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## PCF Marianas Chapter names inaugural Fellows

The Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows Program held its first annual selection Saturday event on Jan. 18, 2013, at Kanoa Resort, which resulted in the choosing of the first Fellows for this program. A panel of notable community leaders made up the committee of judges picked to screen program applicants. Candidates were evaluated based on outstanding achievements, community recommendations, strength of character, leadership potential, communication skills, and community activities.

The overall candidate pool was stellar and undoubtedly impressive, leaving the judges with no easy task. The 19 candidates were ultimately selected to become First Fellows after a series of interviews, followed by consideration of candidate achievements, and grueling deliberations. The Class of 2014 is an impressive group comprising individuals with ties to Tinian, Guam, and Micronesia; educators and civil servants; representatives of the airlines and tourism industry; as well as representatives of other business sectors both small and large. These selected Fellows are between the ages of 24 and 44, and the program established this age bracket as a means of selecting individuals who are mid-career and looking to move forward on innovative and creative paths.

The PCF Marianas Chapter is a leadership development program with the sole purpose of uniting potential leaders and strong community intellectuals in order to strategically address some of today's most pressing matters. The Chapter is an extension of the PCF Program based in Honolulu, Hawaii, and founded by former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann. The program jumpstarts with a

Leadership Retreat for building cohesion as a class and tailoring of the program year to better fit the Fellows' learning and the current issues of our islands. The program year will then carry on with monthly sessions where Fellows will interact with leaders and skilled professionals from various sectors of business and government and all walks of life. The Fellows will graduate upon completion of the program year, and the knowledge gained from the program will go a long way to making more broad-minded leaders, more creative problem-solvers, and more confident global citizens.

Board chairman Jerry Tan extends his congratulations to all of the newly inducted Fellows, and hopes that this adventure will lead all Fellows and the CNMI to a brighter, more solutions-oriented future.

"I am confident this program will be promising in bringing together future leaders, and enhancing their potential and ability to create better and more sustainable solutions for the CNMI," Tan said. "I am pleased with the launch of the PCF Marianas Chapter, as it comes at a time when we really need fresh ideas at the table to tackle some of our age-old problems. I am hopeful that this program will continue to grow in the CNMI and I wish the Fellows Class of 2014 the very best on this adventurous and worthwhile investment."

The 2014 Fellows Class are the following:

- Frank Lee SN. Borja, teacher/English Department chair, Saipan Southern High School
- Alfreda Camacho, acquisition/oversight management coordinator, Com-

monwealth Office of Transit Authority

- Joe Taijeron, legal counsel, CNMI Legislative Bureau
- Juan Diego "JD" Tenorio, Budget and Finance director, CNMI Judiciary
- Leo Pangelinan, dean/director of Counseling, Northern Marianas College
- GERALYN Dela Cruz, real estate specialist, Department of Public Works
- Vince Seman, legal counsel, Century Insurance Co./Tan Holdings
- Chris Concepcion, sales account executive, Delta Airlines
- Bobby Cruz, education specialist/program manager, Public School System Central Office
- Velma Palacios, head of network, IT&E
- Michelle Kramer, East West Center-Hawaii
- Emanuel Borja, environmental engineer, Division of Environmental Quality
- Angel Demapan, special assistant for communications & protocol, Office of the Governor
- Lollipop Villagomez, program officer, NMI Council for the Humanities
- Matthew DLGuerrero, consultant for Economic Development, Cornerstone Consulting Services
- Ivan Blanco, grants management specialist, Office of the Governor
- Bruce Iglecias, sales & marketing, MARPAC
- Abner Acosta, general manager, Fiesta Resort Saipan
- Jackie Che, director of Institutional Effectiveness, Northern Marianas College

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 31, 2006

### Election panel's pockets nearly empty

There's still eight more months to go before the end of the fiscal year but the Commonwealth Election Commission has only about \$10,000 left in its "all-others" funding—about a fourth of the 'all-others' that was originally allocated to the agency for the entire fiscal year. The Commonwealth Election Commission said in a statement yesterday that it spent over 75 percent of its fiscal year 2006 "all-others" funding to cover the cost of the 2005 general election. "Obviously, the commission now has about \$10,000 in 'all-others' funding for the remaining eight months of fiscal year 2006 or until Sept. 30, 2006," said executive director Gregorio Sablan.

### Blast conspirator complains of ineffective lawyer

Andrew K. Quiambao, one of three men convicted in the burning of iConnect's radio room on Mt. Tapochau, has complained that he was not given effective legal assistance during the proceedings. Quiambao complained that his lawyer was ineffective when he failed to object to the court's decision to impose restitution as a condition of his supervised release. The court, realizing that its decision was not governed by any explicit statutory command, grounded its decision solely on the sentencing guidelines mandating that a court "shall" enter a restitution order as authorized under the law, said Quiambao.

January 31, 2007

### Learning center for wetlands officially opens

The Kagman Education Island Wetland learning center is now officially open to the public for education tours. The federally funded learning center held its ribbon cutting ceremony at the site in Chacha Road, Kagman yesterday morning. Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council vice-president Ike Cabrera, who presided over the ceremony, said the center was built to help schoolchildren with their research on wetlands. Agriculture Division staff member Ben S. Borja said the learning center would be locked up for security reasons and would be opened only upon request. He said the site is also a sanctuary for migratory birds that seasonally fly from neighboring countries such as Taiwan.

### Local farmers' meeting

Local farmers and ranchers are all invited for the first Farmers Meeting today, 8:30am, at the Kagman Community Center in Kagman. Division of Agriculture director Donald Flores said this will be the first meeting for the year 2007. He said Department of Lands and Natural Resources Sec. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz and he would be opening the event. Flores said the meeting will update all farmers and ranchers about the Kagman Commercial Farm Plots. He will be discussing lot fees and boundary information, waste material, and other issues relating to farm plots.

January 31, 2008

### New bill seeks to modify minimum wage increase

American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega has introduced a bill in Congress to amend the federal minimum wage law and allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to prevent the mandated wage hikes from damaging the CNMI and American Samoa economies. Specifically, Faleomavaega's bill, H.R. 5154, proposes to modify existing federal minimum wage law to allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to adjust federal wage increases based on an objective determination of their potential impact on the island economies, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior and the governments of both the CNMI and American Samoa. Faleomavaega's bill comes on the heels of a recently released U.S. Labor Department Report expressing concern about the CNMI economy's ability to sustain future federal minimum wage hikes amid a slumping economy.

### DPH holds health screening at Legislature

The Department of Public Health conducted a health screening at the Commonwealth Legislature yesterday. DPH Diabetes and Prevention Control manager Tayna Belyeu-Camacho said the health screening "went very well." At least 50 members of the Legislature, including some lawmakers, participated in the screening. "It was a really good response. Now all we need to do is compile all our findings together," Belyeu-Camacho said. Rep. Ed Salas was one of CNMI's leaders who took part in the health screening.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Family reunion planning meeting on Sat.**

The descendants of Ramon Pangelinan and Ana Mendiola, together with the families of Pedro Mendiola Pangelinan and Narcisa Del Rosario Iriarte, Luis Mendiola Pangelinan and Antonia Borja Dela Cruz, Juan Mendiola Pangelinan and Ana Manahane Cabrera, and Ramon Pangelinan and Ana Mendiola will have a family reunion planning meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe, starting at 9am.

For more information, contact Maria Pangelinan Blas (Valdez) at 235-7432 or 285-7444; or Gregorio Pangelinan Sablan (Dedang) at 237-6797 Ext. 6798 or 256-2369. (PR)

**Friends of the Arts presents Rent**

Love and turmoil: two words we don't like to think about together. These words sometimes connect due to circumstances beyond our control. The many diverse relationships—lovers, married couples or friends with benefits—will appreciate Friend's of the Arts February production of *Rent*. The show will be held at PIC Charley's Cabaret on Feb. 28, March 1 and 2, 2014. All shows begin at 7pm.

*Rent* is a rock opera of sorts, inspired by the famous Italian opera by Puccini, *La Bohème*. In both musicals, the common theme is that love struggles against all odds to prevail. Join Friend's of the Arts for an evening of music, color, dance, culture, and celebrate diversity! (FOA)

# Super Bowl sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the following dates and times:

**FEB. 2, 2014**

The first setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe, in front of Minantchom Atdao, on the southbound lane, from 4:30pm to 6:15pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya by the waterloo on the westbound lane, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

The third setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, adjacent to the St. Michael's Office on the southbound lane, from 9:15pm to 10:30pm.

**FEB. 3, 2014**

The first setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane, from 1:30pm to 2:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau in front of IT&E on the southbound lane, from 4pm to 5:15 pm.

The third setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe in front of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building on the northbound lane, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdiction, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdiction, and speed enforcement.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. (DPS)

# Rotary's 'Love on the Run' on Feb. 8

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be hosting a fun run and walk event next Saturday, Feb. 8, to raise funds for its community projects.

Dubbed "Love on the Run," the event will have 5- and 10-kilometer courses with the start and finish line at the Micro Beach Pavilion at the American Memorial Park.

The 5K run will have its turnaround

at the 13 Fishermen's Monument, while the 10K run will have it at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill. Both sites will also feature aid stations.

Registration time is 5:30am at Micro Beach Pavilion, with the actual race starting 45 minutes later at 6:15am.

The top male and female finisher in the 5- and 10-K runs will receive prizes. Prizes will also be awarded to age

category winners in the following divisions—under 19 year old, ages 20-40 years old, and ages 40 and above.

The local Rotary Club will also be raffling off prizes during the awards ceremony immediately following the race.

Entrance fee is \$10 and participants are encouraged to wear red to celebrate Valentine's Day. (Mark Rabago)



Happy birthday to Vova Pilipenko! We wish you strong health, inextinguishable potential and joy! Greetings come from your friends, family, and your grandson Mark.

Happy 25th birthday mommy So-sha Mae Schard! Best wishes and may you have many more wonderful birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings coming out from Anthony, Zaine, and Zanthony.



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday Krystal Aldan! May your day be filled with lots of love and happiness. And we wish you many more to come. We love you. Greetings come from Pam, Polly, Vivian, Verna, Connie and your Russian Barbie!



Happy 2nd birthday to our little princess, Leala Igitol Ngraked! We love you and wish you many more blessings coming your way. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Lyandra, Spencer, Lena, and the rest of the family.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Gong Xi Fa Cai—Happy Chinese New Year to Ms. Li! Greetings coming out from your friends.



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### A call for collaboration

Two themes dominated the advance speculation about President Obama's State of the Union address: that he would hammer away at income inequality and joblessness, and that, despairing of cooperation with congressional Republicans, he would defiantly trumpet what he could accomplish unilaterally.

Fortunately, the forecasts were only half right. Obama indeed emphasized the importance of strengthening and enlarging the middle class, which he said had been battered not only by a concentration of wealth at the top but by "massive shifts in technology and global competition."

But while he did announce some unilateral actions, including a directive to create a new vehicle for retirement savings, Obama asked Republicans who control the House to "make progress together."

Engaging the opposition isn't only politic; it's indispensable. Take an issue that loomed large in Obama's speech: the need for an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$10.10, restoring its purchasing power to late-1960s levels. Economists argue ad nauseam about whether raising the minimum wage depresses hiring. But surely minimum-wage workers are entitled at the very least to increases that cover inflation.

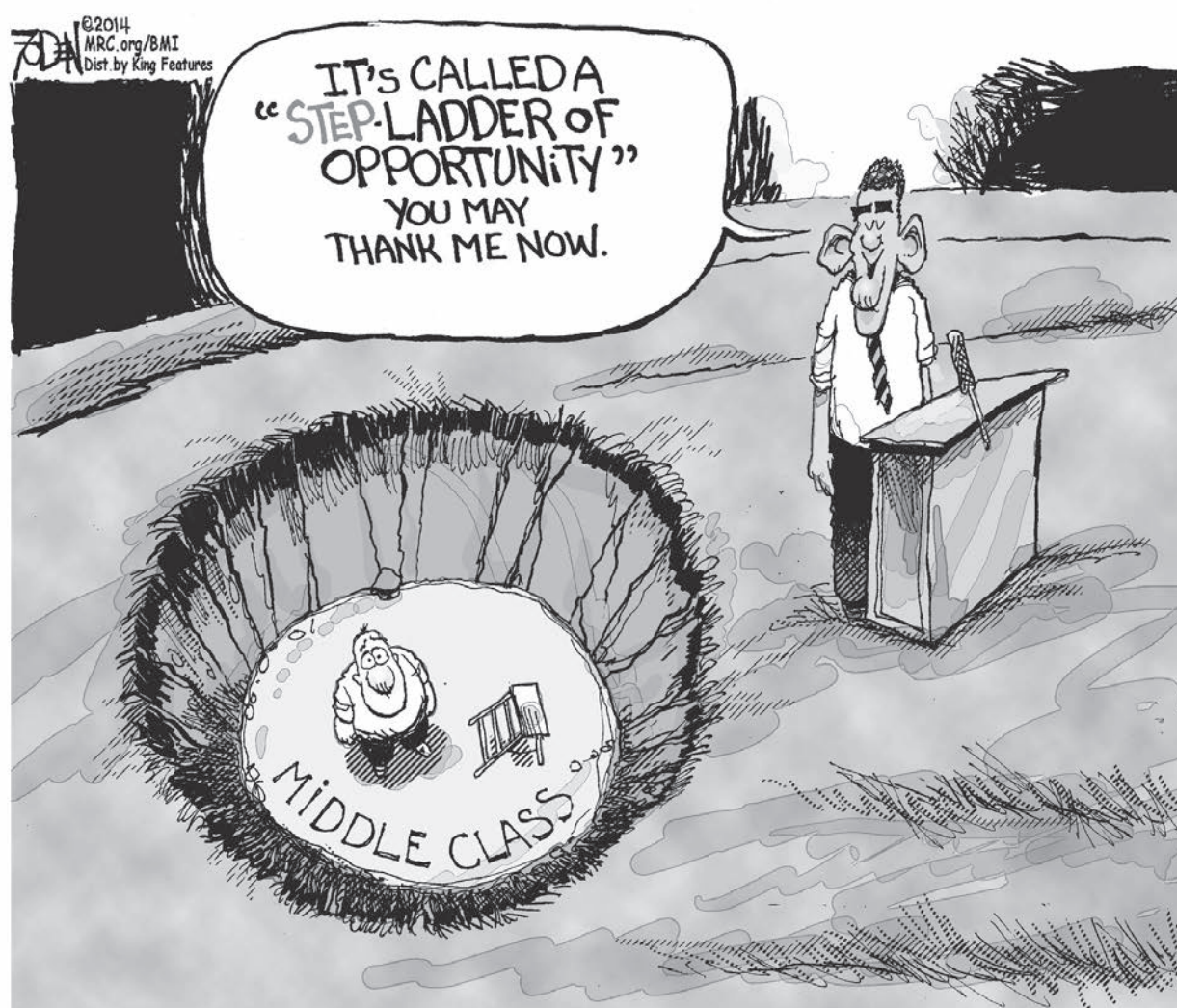
Obama announced that he would issue an executive order to mandate a higher wage for employees of businesses that receive government contracts. But that unilateral action would protect only a few hundred thousand workers, compared with the millions who would benefit from a legislated increase. Likewise, congressional action would be needed to restore expired unemployment benefits to 1.6 million Americans.

So too with immigration reform. Although the president has been able on his own to defer the deportation of the so-called dreamers, who were brought to this country when they were young, legal relief for their parents will require congressional action. Like the president, we believe reform must include a path to citizenship of the sort in the bill passed by the Senate. But with key Republicans moving to acceptance of the idea of legalization, Obama rightly adopted a conciliatory tone, acknowledging that "members of both parties in the House" want to fix a broken immigration system.

Despite these conciliatory gestures, Obama was resolute where he had to be. He warned Republicans that it would be futile to schedule "another 40-something votes" to repeal the Affordable Care Act, "a law that's already helping millions of Americans." And he offered a crisp defense of negotiations with Iran over that country's nuclear program, promising that "if this Congress sends me a new sanctions bill now that threatens to derail these talks, I will veto it."

In general, however, despite the hyperpartisan atmosphere on Capitol Hill, Obama's speech amounted to a call for collaboration between Congress and the White House. Congressional Republicans, who are still suffering from the spectacle of their disastrous shutdown of the federal government, would be wise to respond in kind.

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## Ma Nian Kuai Le, Happy Year of the Horse

I went to school in the '60s by the horse farms and stables of blue grass Kentucky where I made myself unpopular by commenting that the horse barns looked better tended than the public schools. Oblivious to the fancy of the Kentucky Derby, I did not notice the tall and long-legged equines by the rails of the corrals at all. The view of the elegant pony unencumbered in its gallop in the free range of the Mongolia grasslands visited a year ago is what I remember most of a horse.

I begin the Year of the Horse by the pony's well-defined quality of self-reliance and hard work. (I graduated from Texas' SMU where the mascot is the Mustang, with the Ford company's car brand introduced two years before I got there!) As I forsake the security, and thereby comfort, of the classroom this transition year, I intend to work hard, be self-confident, self-reliant, and self-supporting in the manner I have prescribed to those within the circle of my influence. I intend to be a faithful mustang!

I have not fallen into the clutches of Chinese horoscopy, by any chance. My use of their metaphors is as much for entertainment as it is creating effective images to enable me to gallop along while others might understand.

I have dabbled a bit in the Years of the Dragon and Snake that preceded the Horse. The dragon does not exist other than in the mind, pictured as a cross between a huge centipede and a snake, often used to depict China's mighty Huanghe and the Chiang Jiang rivers, so it has clear imaginal value. But the snake is an avoided creature in the West, and being Western-trained, that might be the reason why I do not easily warm up to its coils.

It is the tiger that is most compatible to the horse, and as I saw a member of the Bengali tigers in Sichuan not too long ago, it is understanding the tiger and the horse in the yin-yang context that renders both a jumble of contradictions.

The hardworking horse is characterized as cool but hot-blooded, hard-nosed but humble, impatient but extraordinarily tolerant. Horses cooperate well in groups but each works alone with remarkable energy and concentration.

Those born under the sign of the Horse are good with their hands but engage in any given task, physical, mental and social. They are cheerful, charismatic and sometimes loquacious, even clairvoyantly finishing other peoples' sentences in conversation. They tend to be, however, the first guest to depart from a social gathering, usually due to a feeling of being too "penned in."

Horses prefer open spaces but enjoy the camaraderie of pressed flesh at meets and fests like concerts. In personal relationships, they cherish belonging and intimacy but once domesticated, they are dutiful to filial obligations. They remain however, at heart powerfully rebellious creatures that will not be cornered.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

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Travel is a favored hobby, and horses are known to race off to any far-flung destination at a moment's notice. As such, those born under this sign are well suited to careers as adventurers, poets, travel writers, and politicians.

I obviously relied from other's characterization in the last four paragraphs. As should be obvious, the description can apply to almost anyone under any sign, horse or otherwise! Being born under the sign of the Cock, I am appropriating the aforementioned qualities as a matter of choice.

This is to say that I look at the coming year more in fascination for its promise rather than dread for its mystery, whatever the animal signs and the positions of the constellations say. That sentiment fuels the way I get my butt going and moving around.

As a child of the 2014 universe of statistical probabilities, I understand my life to be largely led by choice rather than circumstance. To be sure, one can take advantage of opportunities when they come, and see the new light as a window opens while a door closes. These may sound but scraps of platitude, so let me ground myself to reality.

I first visited Saipan in 1990 and a friend wanted me to return for heaps of mullah waiting to be made in HR, grossly understood then as bringing as much cheap labor as one can, preferably from the Philippines since they understood English, but would not be remiss to exploit the cheaper labor from China. The floodgates that followed extended west into Pakistan, with the worst exploiters those of the same ethnic kind!

There are those who constantly rail at the failure of local leadership because the influx of capital into the CNMI that took advantage of the opportunity for "Made in USA" products into the U.S. market was not guided well. Yo, the window of opportunity was a loophole, exploited on the backs of imported cheap labor, and powered by many hustles, even as business literally depend today on the backs of former garment factory workers to attract R&R of Navy and Marine personnel into Garapan!

Events were not determined by circumstances. They were products of choices, including the choice to rail and wail. This year, I welcome the newness of the unknown. Take your pick.



## One cuckoo over the flu's nest

**B**efore you ask me a very obvious question, I'll give you the answer: No, I am not happy to be dressed this way. Sitting on a beach chair while wearing a hazmat suit and a Mark 5 gas mask is not comfortable at all, especially in the tropical humidity.

Furthermore, people are looking at me like I'm cuckoo. I try to explain that I'm taking a stand against the swine flu.

After all, this year, people I know in the health care industry have been more adamant than usual about telling everyone to get a flu shot.

Don't ask me if the alarm is, well, alarmist. I've got no idea. But if you're looking for an alarming figure, I'll note that in 2009 an estimated 151,700 to 575,400 people died from the swine flu or related complications. Yeah, that's a pretty wide range there, but even at the low end it sure seems like a lot of people.

Oddly enough, it seems to hit younger people the hardest, or so I'm told. That seems contrary to the intuition that the aged are of more fragile health, hence more vulnerable.

The mainland press has been publishing a lot of articles on the topic lately.

As for me, every year I get enthralled with yet another magic elixir of health, the more arcane and exotic the better. Flu scare or no flu scare, I'll grudgingly acknowledge that I can't subsist entirely on bacon cheeseburgers and green M&Ms, so I have to make some concession to healthy living.

My potion for this year is a tea made from dried bitter melon. An herb expert recommended this to me.

After I bought a bag of the tea, the expert hawked up a giant gob of phlegm, spat it on the doorstep, and then lit up a cigarette. This was obviously a gesture of emphatic confidence, so I know I'm in good hands.

And I will note something: Despite my germy little nephews coughing on everyone and running their grimy little paws on every available piece of food in the entire house, the bitter melon potion seems to have kept the flu bugs at bay.

Of course, I can't prove any causal factor here. I'm just going on intuition, the same intuition that tells me that my car runs better after I wash it. Which, by the way, it does, so my powers of correlative perception are not to be doubted.

Many readers will be familiar with bitter melon, since it's common in the tropics. I'll confess I have not acquired a taste for it as a food. But the tea, made from the dried fruit, makes for a mighty savory brew.

In fact, on the health front, bitter melon has received some interesting attention. Some studies have even indicated it has anti-cancer properties in test tubes and in mice. That's good news for you mouse collectors out there. I haven't, however, seen anything about human trials yet.

Meanwhile, whenever the flu gig amplifies concerns about how germs spread, I use it as a reminder to pay attention to where I eat

**By ED STEPHENS**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.*



when I am out and about. I travel too much sometimes and I get lazy, tired, and hungry. I'm not a clean freak, but even a slob like me can't help but notice that some restaurants seem determined to be filthy.

For example, the popularity of latex gloves produces some interesting practices, since the idea seems to be that if someone wears the gloves, then everything is OK. Last year I saw a latex-gloved restaurant employee cleaning the men's room, and then, without changing gloves, that employee went back to the food preparation area and made sandwiches for customers. I have to admire the efficiency of that approach, but I'll spare myself the honor of being a participant in it.

Those flu germs have to build a nest somewhere, but I hope they'll skip my little branch of the world.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to take my hazmat suit to the cleaners. I prefer light starch since I always like to look my best, even when I'm at the beach.

## Investment equals jobs creation

**L**ong-term capital investment is the single most powerful jobs creator anywhere in the world, according to the venerable U.S. Business Roundtable, whose member companies generate annual revenues of more than \$7 trillion while employing 16 million workers.

We haven't seen any major infusion of capital investment here since 2005, have we? Thus, the financial disaster found in the glaring cumulative deficit of more than \$561 million. Revenue generation lags behind significantly for a paltry \$126 million last fiscal year. Debts suffocate economic growth. It translates into joblessness as negligifluenza spreads among the multitude.

"And make no mistake, economic growth doesn't happen absent private investment. ...Where there is investment—a new factory or distribution facility being built, a new store about to open, new software being installed—that is where new jobs are created," according to a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed by Randall Stephenson, chairman and CEO of AT&T and the new head of the Business Roundtable.

Here at home, the CNMI suffers heavily from the lack of capital investment. The elected elite tightens its ties sitting comfortably in the land of mediocrity as "do-nothings" keeping fingers crossed that a miracle falls out of the blue dome upstairs. Nah! Nothing is ever handed on a silver platter. We must work for it and earn our dues the old-fashioned way. The annual Christmas drops no longer exist. Even Santa Claus skips the islands!

### Policy uncertainty

Politicians can no longer ignore their fiduciary duty in terms of the essence and strength of positive policies that promote economic growth, stability and certainty.

For instance, no matter where you roam in these isles nothing tops the mouthwash of villagers other than CUC's high cost of utilities. It has turned families into de facto employees lining up daily to pay their dues. At the same time it has forced marginal small businesses to close their doors or put up shutters.

When do we exit the usual syndrome of shooting an arrow then drawing the target around where it hits? How about some meaningful planning sessions involving the thoughtful process?

The issue doesn't require rocket science to resolve, but the elected

elite can't continue doing its rain and fire dance of "do-nothing," given the egregious hardship at the village level. Health premiums just went up by 40 percent (thanks to Kilili and Inos) while power rates are likely to spark like firecrackers every other full moon as we wait for another round of increases in food items.

Does this make sense to our men of wisdom upstairs or do they need a dog and pony show so we illustrate real hardship throughout households everywhere? You must move your best foot forward and lower policy uncertainty on this issue. It's the way forward to instituting growth by simply lowering or removing uncertainty in this and other significant policy matters.

Some arcane policies like the excise tax and other predatory policies must be revisited. Fatal *mañana* would only deepen the economic mess for families throughout these isles.

### 'I don't know'

As the heat of the election season picks up steam, we've seen some familiar names being dangled as candidates. The only trouble is: these names are as exhausting when realistically measured against their lack of performance to move the lot of the multitude forward. Look at where we are today struggling in the filthy waters of horrendous cost of living. Do we repeat with the "do-nothing" troops?

I find it troubling as candidates grope for words when quizzed why the economic mess today. Some dismiss it as though they weren't part of it, conveniently mouthing off, "I don't know." Weren't you policymakers in recent years? How could you have missed the towering drop and destruction of the local economy emanating from policies crafted within and without the NMI?

Must look for candidates with decent academic competence, vision, common sense, and mindfulness. After all, the quality of life in any given country is dependent upon the quality of leadership. This should be the focus of this year's election! Sorry, not ready to repeat, "I don't know" for it is a very clear indication you've failed the multitude. Not ready to repeat history of failure and if you ever ask for my vote, it's simple too: "I don't know." Sorry!

### Dysfunctional representation

When a dysfunctional government goes out of alignment, you'd

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



assume it's a huge and complex system. It isn't as complex as a human body or automobile where a malfunctioning part strains the entire system.

"A dysfunctional Congress corrodes the rest of the constitutional architecture. It imposes a burden on other branches to pick up the policymaking slack, and threatens to shift excessive authority outside the legislature.

"Similarly, it throws off kilter the balance between the federal government and state, leaving laboratories of democracy without adequate tools and leeway to conduct their experiments."

That Congress is broken may be the ultimate dog-bites-man column, but former Defense Secretary Robert Gates' acidic assessment is as undeniable as it is quotable: "uncivil, incompetent in fulfilling basic constitutional responsibilities, micro-managerial, parochial, hypocritical, egotistical, thin-skinned, often putting self (and reelection) before country."

Have we replicated the dysfunctional fad in Washington, D.C.? About the only positive event hailing from D.C. is the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on Benghazi, the death of Americans being preventable. It does make a difference, right, Ms. Hillary Clinton? Would her reaction be lackadaisical or dismissive were a family member was included in the same group?

No matter the powerful plans to upstage Hillary Clinton as the likely Democrat for 2016, the ugly ghost of Benghazi will haunt her the entire trip on the campaign trail. How does she deal with some 62 percent of Americans who no longer trust their government?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## A home run with marijuana

I didn't tell readers the clinchers that should convince even the hardest critics that we should legalize marijuana because I love tough challenges and I wanted to get some reactions first.

FYI, the \$527 million in sales of marijuana in the city of Denver was also complemented with an increase in Colorado's tourist industry that generated \$1.6 billion dollars more than they average yearly! Tourists are literally running to Denver and the CNMI would be truly foolish to the highest degree to let this economic game changer leave us in its wake. We will have more investors, tourists, and more airlines than we can handle and the real casinos on Tinian and Rota will finally flourish! The CNMI needs to paddle as fast as we can to ride the marijuana phenomenon that is clearly a wave of economic prosperity before it scatters to other states and regions of the world and we lose again! I have just given readers the empirical truths and facts that prove the CNMI will flourish economically from our tourism industry if we simply legalize marijuana.

Update: Hawaii is already working to create legislation to export marijuana and don't forget the two states that have made marijuana legal, the dozens of states and Guam that are making marijuana legal for medical use and the dozen or more states that are preparing to put marijuana legalization on the ballot in November this year. So I must ask, are we stupid enough to depend on one or two e-casino rooms of machines, local players, and no workers to save the Fund and other things or do we go for the big and proven payday we need and want so desperately by legalizing marijuana? The billion-dollar question for voters on the future of the CNMI in November is simple: Do you really want to be left standing on first base after three outs with e-casinos or hit a home run with bases loaded with legalize marijuana? November is going to be a big month for marijuana and the mainland voters so we had better get ready because we only get this one shot to be one of the first to cash in on the marijuana mega-bonanza of economic prosperity.

What makes this so great for the CNMI is that islands represent one of the best places in the world to vacation and be able to smoke marijuana without fear of going to jail and we could be the first. Our tourist rates will literally explode with visitors! We also don't have to worry about repercussions from the feds for legalizing marijuana because they didn't do anything to the states of Washington and Colorado and they can't police it anyway. Heck, the President is even on board for moving forward on marijuana legalization! If we miss this boat (opportunity to legalize marijuana) it will send a clear signal that the CNMI is still old-fashioned and overloaded with suckers and losers who fell for e-casinos. I keep trying to help and inform the people and our leaders but I can only keep praying that one day the people and our leaders will realize they need to listen to Mr. B.

**Ambrose M Bennett**






*Kagman, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼80

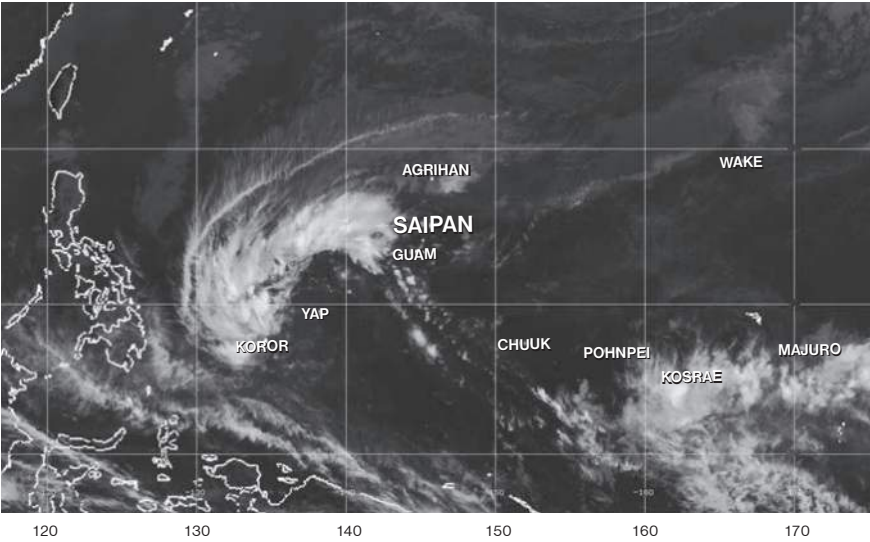
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲50 ▼28
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲77 ▼70
London	Rain	▲47 ▼42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼45
Manila	Cloudy	▲82 ▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲95 ▼65
Miami	Showers	▲80 ▼69
New York	Cloudy	▲40 ▼30
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼48
Paris	Fog	▲46 ▼40
Pusan	Showers	▲62 ▼50
Rome	Rain	▲60 ▼49
Salem	Showers	▲44 ▼33
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼40
Seoul	Showers	▲46 ▼38
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲50 ▼39
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▼33

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
2:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
7:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered just southwest of Yap at 9N137E. This disturbance remains the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across the Republic of Palau west of the center west of a line from 13N138E to 4N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present north of Yap to near Guam within 100 miles of a line from 14N136E to 14N142E to 13N143E. Isolated thunderstorms well east of the center are present south of Guam within 100 miles of a line from 13N143E to 7N148E. For more Information on the TCFA, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. A shear line curves west-southwestward from 25N174E to 15N152E then continues west across the Marianas near Anatahan to 16N137E then heads southwest to 13N134E. Clouds and patchy rain are seen along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from south of Pohnpei to Kosrae and across the southern Marshall Islands to beyond the date line within 150 miles of a line from 2N156E to 2N161E to 6N180. A cold front extends southwestward from 23N180 to east of Wake Island at 18N170E. Clouds and patchy rain are seen along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:37 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	7:30 AM	7:40 PM
Sunday	8:20 AM	8:39 PM
Monday	9:07 AM	9:37 PM
Tuesday	9:53 AM	10:33 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)</b> D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	<b>TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN</b> D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)</b> D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	<b>HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN</b> D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
<b>SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)</b> D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	<b>WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN</b> D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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<b>Pork Spareribs</b> <b>\$20<sup>49</sup></b> 20lbs 	<b>Babyribs</b> <b>\$21<sup>49</sup></b> 10lbs 	<b>Ichiban</b> <b>\$10<sup>99</sup></b> CASE 
		<b>Max Butane Gas</b> <b>\$21<sup>99</sup></b> CASE 

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<b>Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 	<b>Coffee Mate</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 50 OZ. 	<b>Folgers Coffee</b> <b>\$11<sup>99</sup></b> 33.3 OZ. 	<b>Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn</b> <b>99¢</b> 15 OZ. 	<b>Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn</b> <b>\$5<sup>79</sup></b> 106 OZ. 	<b>Spam All Kinds</b> <b>\$2<sup>35</sup></b> EA. LIMIT 6 	<b>Black Label Luncheon Sausage</b> <b>\$1<sup>79</sup></b> EA. LIMIT 6 	<b>Libbys Vienna Sausage</b> <b>59¢</b> 50Z. 	<b>Ox &amp; Palm Luncheon Loaf</b> <b>\$1<sup>59</sup></b> 12 OZ. 
<b>Chorizos</b> <b>\$16<sup>49</sup></b> 3 lbs. 	<b>Campbells Chicken Noodle</b> <b>89¢</b> 10 OZ. 	<b>King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal</b> <b>\$31<sup>99</sup></b> 	<b>Del Monte Ketchup</b> <b>\$4<sup>69</sup></b> 64 OZ. 	<b>White Sugar</b> <b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b> 2 KG. 	<b>Fresco Vegetable Oil</b> <b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b> 1 GAL. 	<b>Dragon Vegetable Oil</b> <b>\$9<sup>49</sup></b> 1GAL. 	<b>Kikkoman Soy Sauce</b> <b>\$4<sup>59</sup></b> 1.6 L. 	<b>Rota Water</b> <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> 350ML. 

**| FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN |**

<b>Tilapia</b> <b>\$1<sup>09</sup></b> /LB. 	<b>Milk Fish</b> <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> /LB. 	<b>Bar S Jumbo Franks</b> <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> 	<b>Bar S Ham</b> <b>\$18<sup>99</sup></b> 10LBS. 	<b>Ground Beef</b> <b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> 5LBS. 	<b>Chamorro Sausage</b> <b>\$4<sup>49</sup></b> 
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**| PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE |**

<b>Onion</b> <b>79¢</b> LB. 	<b>Potato</b> <b>99¢</b> LB. 	<b>Garlic</b> <b>\$1<sup>25</sup></b> 5 PCS. 	<b>U.S. X-Large Eggs</b> 
<b>Celo Apple</b> <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> /BAG 	<b>Orange</b> <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> LB. 	<b>Honeydew/ Cantaloupe</b> <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> LB. 	<b>Korean Pear</b> <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> LB. 

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Pork Adobo	\$9.99	Ox Tail	\$15.99
Pork Bellies	\$11.99	Smoked Ham Steak	\$12.99

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<b>Dawn Dishwashing Soap</b> <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> 90 oz. 	<b>Joy Ultra</b> <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 12.5 OZ. <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> 90 OZ. 	<b>Purex</b> <b>\$4<sup>49</sup></b> 50 OZ. 	<b>Gain Liquid</b> <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> 50 OZ. <b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b> 100 OZ. 	<b>Gain Powder</b> <b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b> 102 Loads <b>\$18<sup>99</sup></b> 20 Loads 	<b>Head &amp; Shoulders All Kinds</b> <b>\$5<sup>49</sup></b> 23OZ. <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> Shampoo 	<b>Bounty Paper Towel</b> <b>\$20<sup>99</sup></b> 15 Rolls 	<b>Charmin Basic Toilet Paper</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 12 ROLLS <b>\$14<sup>99</sup></b> 24 ROLLS 	<b>Foam Plates</b> <b>\$3<sup>29</sup></b> 50 CT <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 125 CT 	<b>Charmin Tissue (Regular)</b> <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 24 Rolls 
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## A special thanks to all

I would like to thank the United Filipino Organization for inviting us *man'amko* to their Christmas *Paskong Pinoy* party at the Garapan Central Park. We appreciate that they gave us the priority to start the program by singing Christmas songs. We are happy to be chosen as judges to judge some of the *man'amko* in their singing contest. We also enjoyed "That is My Tomboy" contest a lot.

We highly appreciate the Christmas gifts people gave us and the big amount they donated to us. We would like to give special thanks to Bank of Guam for their \$1,000 Christmas gift. It's going to be a significant support for our upcoming tour to Guam.

I offer my special thanks to Rep. Ralph Yumul for his contribution to our fundraising efforts. Our gratitude also goes to our Delegate Kilili Sa-

blan for his donation.

The *man'amko* would like to congratulate and salute Docomo Pacific and the president of the United Filipino Organization and all its members for their fundraising of about \$11,000 to support the relief efforts for the Yolanda typhoon victims.

The *man'amko* led by our director, Walter Manglona, is proud to add its donations in support of the typhoon

victims. Most of the senior citizens brought boxes full of clothes, noodle soup, etc. I was happy to be part of *man'amko* charity. I hope my three boxes of blankets, food, and clothes did good to some victims.

When the disaster took place, the Philippines got the attention and help of the whole world. The disaster united us. It made us stay strong together. We acknowledge the support of the

United Nations and the United States. We are grateful to the U.S. for its urgent and significant support shown to people by offering the housing project designed especially for the Philippines when they needed it most. Thank and thanks to all of you! May God bless us all!

**Teddy Guiao**  
Navy Hill, Saipan

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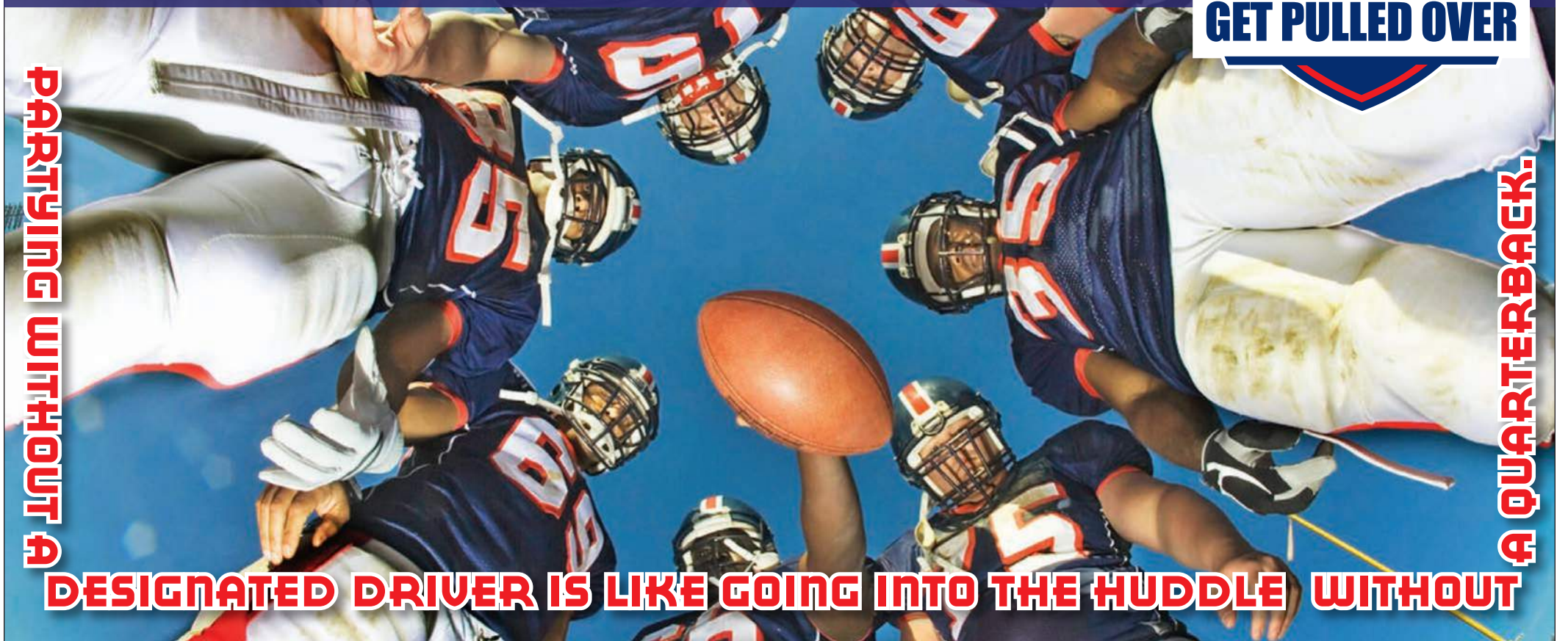
Food \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00 menu



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## Lunar New Year

Chinese Association of Saipan director Rose Chan poses with the group that will perform traditional lion dances in various establishments around the island today.

MARK RABAGO

# Lion dance to welcome Year of the Wooden Horse

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**F**or the past 25 years or so, the Chinese Association of Saipan would usher in the Lunar New Year by performing traditional lion dances in various establishments around the island.

Association director Rose Chan said the traditional lion dance—and for that matter the traditional dragon dance—are performed to ward off evil spirits as the Chinese welcome the New Year.

Aside from the lion and dragon dances with their loud rhythmic drumming, the lighting of firecrackers is also important during Lunar New Year, as its earsplitting sound is one sure way to ward off evil spirits.

Chan said the cabbage and springs onions used in the traditional lion and dragon dances symbolize money.

"Cabbage in Chinese sounds the same as the Chi-

nese word for money. Cabbage in Chinese is *chi*, that is the same Chinese word for money. If the lion eats the money or cabbage, it will bring a lot of good luck to the family or the business," she said.

### Inherited from dad

Chan inherited from her father the organizing of the annual traditional lion dances on Saipan. Her family runs the Canton Restaurant along Beach Road in Garapan.

"Dad used to organize this but after he died I took over."

She said the performers of the traditional lion and dragon dances are all volunteers,

*Continued on Next Page*



The Year of Horse



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In Celebrating  
The Year of  
The Horse.





**The traditional lion dance is characterized by fast movements and loud rhythmic drumming to ward off evil spirits in the New Year.**

MARK BARAGO



**While it only needs two persons to operate the lion—one literally wearing the head and the other holding the tail—the movements are so fast and physically exhausting that the pair needs to be substituted every five or so minutes.**

MARK RABAGO

MARK BARAGG

美国塞班中华总会  
祝贺塞班岛全体华人同胞甲午年  
新春快乐  
Happy Spring Festival

百花齐放春光好

万马奔腾气象新



## LION DANCE SCHEDULES

8:30AM	TSL PLAZA	2:40PM	IT&E
9:00AM	CENTURY HOTEL	3:00PM	SUBWAY
11:00AM	HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN	4:00PM	FIESTA RESORT & SPA
11:30AM	NIC HEALTH, 9922	5:00PM	MICRO BEACH HOTEL, DOLLAR DAYS
12:00PM	CANTON RESTAURANT	6:00PM	SUNLEADER MART
12:30PM	MAJESTY RESTAURANT	6:30PM	HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN
12:50PM	LOUIS VUITTON	7:00PM	I ♥ SAIPAN
2:00PM	KANOA RESORT, CENTURY TOURS	8:00PM	DUTY FREE SAIPAN

**Come and join us in our Chinese New Year Party on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – 10:00pm**  
**For tickets, please call 234-3873, 233-3988 or visit the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.**

**Thank you to all our sponsors**

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Sunleader Mart

Tan Holdings  
Tinian Dynasty  
TransAmerica  
World Resort  
WuShin Gas  
Twins Market  
Venus Beauty Salon  
Yaong Corp.

**From Page 15**

clarifying that they only perform the former in Lunar New Year because they need as much as 50 people to operate the dragon.

Even the lion dance could be labor extensive, as she needs from 10 to 16 people to operate the two lions that perform every Lunar New Year.

While it only needs two persons to operate the lion—one literally wearing the head and the other holding the tail—the movements are so fast and physically exhausting that the pair needs to be substituted every five or so minutes.

The traditional dragon dance, meanwhile is only performed for very special occasions and at bigger venues like during the 4th of July celebrations.

The props also don't come cheap. Chan said one lion costs between \$1,000 and \$2,000 and are imported from China. The dragon is more expensive and can run up to as much as \$4,000.

**High of 32**

In today's Lunar New Year, the Chinese Association of Saipan is booked to perform the traditional lion dance at 20 sites.

They will start out at their own building in China Town, followed by the TSL Plaza (8:30am), Century Hotel (9am), Hyatt Regency Saipan (11am), NIC Health, 9922 (11:30am), Canton Restaurant (12pm), Majesty Restaurant (12:30pm), Louis Vuitton (12:50pm), Kanoa Resort and Century Tours (2pm), Subway (3pm), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (4pm), Micro Beach Hotel and Dollar Days (5pm), Hyatt Regency Saipan (6:30pm), I Love Saipan (7pm), and Duty Free Saipan (8pm).

"Last year it was 29. The largest number was 32 when Saipan still had garment factories. We went to all gar-

ment factories. We started over 25 years ago when there were already a lot of garment factories on the island. Most of my dancers used to work in garment factories. They stayed and now work in various capacities on island as construction workers, gardeners, to farmers. Some also work at trading companies," said Chan.

The Chinese Association of Saipan actually accepts donations for their lion and dragon dance routines, which range in price from \$280 to \$580 that they donate to their school, located inside their building in China Town.

While the performers are not paid, Chan said they get to keep their brand new lion dance uniforms and shoes every year, adding that all of them are always happy to volunteer because they are proud of their culture and performing the lion dance is their way of keeping the tradition alive.

Huang Hong, who is the drummer and the *de facto* leader of the group, said he has been performing in lion dances since he was 14 years old in Toyshan, China.

The 57-year-old has been working on Saipan since 1997 and has been performing lion dances since 1998.

Huang and company only start practicing two or three weeks before the Lunar New Year and they usually do it three times a week after work hours.

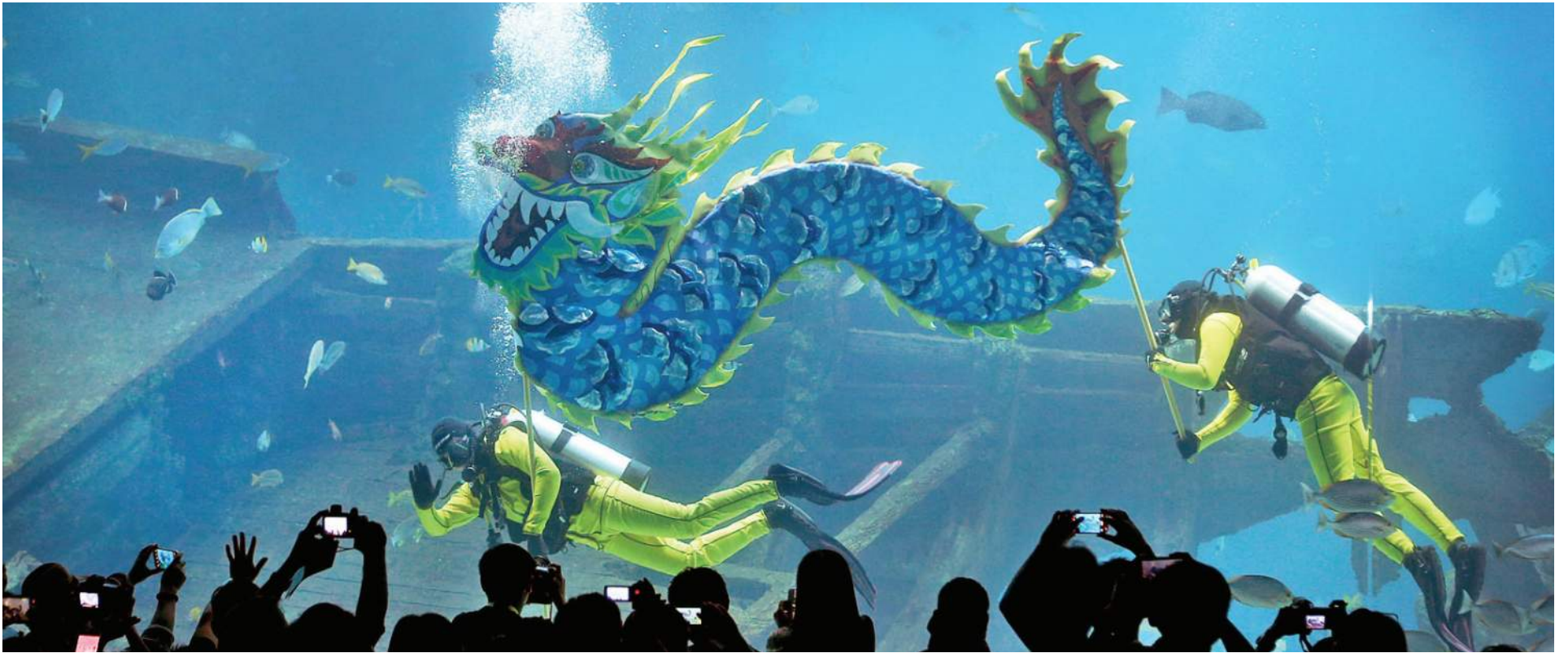
Chan is inviting the local community and even tourists to join their traditional lion dance performances today.

"Please watch our lion dance performances today because they bring good luck and good health to everyone. It's good enjoyment and a good atmosphere for Chinese New Year. I also wish everybody good luck. The Year of the Wooden Horse means doing something fast and successful. I wish everybody good health and more money."



Divers carry a man-made dragon, as part of Chinese New Year dragon blessings to wish all their guests boundless energy in the Year of the Horse, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014 at the South East Asia Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore.

AP



## Chinese New Year sends **laborers** home, rich abroad

By **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**B**EIJING (AP)—Dragging a heavy suitcase through a Shanghai subway station, 17-year-old Linghu Yong prepared himself to cram onto a jam-packed train Thursday for the 30-hour trip home to spend the Lunar New Year with his family.

And he was one of the lucky ones. Crowds of other migrant workers were still camped out for the often dayslong wait for a ticket.

"I'll be celebrating the New Year for the first time on the train," said the aspiring college student from the western city of Chongqing, who came to Shanghai to apprentice at a cellphone factory. "My New Year wish is to go home to celebrate the New Year with my family, and to buy a computer."

China's Lunar New Year migration is often referred to as the largest movement of people anywhere, with 3.6 billion trips of all lengths by bus, plane and train expected to be made over the 40-day travel rush. While still an annual ritual for millions working far from home, such journeys are being shunned by many of the newly prosperous who are increasingly using the weeklong national holiday to fly to overseas or tourist spots within China.

Beijing accountant Wang Zheng, 34, said her whole family will go to China's tropical resort island of Hainan despite its reputation for holiday price-gouging by hotels and restaurants.

"Why not make the holiday more fun rather than just having the usual big dinner with family or going to the traditional temple fair? That defi-

nitely gets old," she said.

Chinese communities around the world were gearing up for the holiday that begins at midnight. On self-governing Taiwan, revelers jammed into the capital Taipei's historic shopping district to load up on holiday snacks. Health authorities said that nearly 40 percent of the island's population can be expected to gain two kilograms (4.4 pounds) during the holiday.

Hong Kong officials expect nearly 8 million travelers to pass through its borders from January 29 to February 6, more than the local population of 7.1 million. Most of those travelers will be mainland Chinese, who have been flooding into the semiautonomous territory in increasing numbers in recent years thanks to rising incomes and a strengthening yuan.

This year marks the year of the horse according to Chinese astrology, generally considered an auspicious time, and business-savvy residents of the territory were hoping for vigorous growth.

"For the Asian economies, especially Hong Kong and China, their luck will be the same ... it will be an economically active year," said Peter So, a master of feng shui, or Chinese geomancy.

Koreans and Vietnamese also celebrate the holiday, while festivities are held in cities from Paris to Phnom Penh, both as a celebration by their Chinese communities and to cater to the throngs of visitors arriving for sightseeing and shopping.

Las Vegas has long made a point of marking the occasion, and hotels, shops and casinos were festooned with New Year greetings and decorations in auspicious red and gold to appeal to big-spending Chinese visitors.

See **LABORERS** on Next Page




Gong Xi Fa Dai!

恭喜發財

Have a safe and peaceful  
Chinese New Year to all!

From the management and staff of



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# China expects 3.6 bln trips over **Lunar New Year**



A woman carries her luggage walks up a staircase heading to the Beijing railway station to catch a train in Beijing Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014. AP

## Chinese New Year

This year, Chinese New Year begins Jan. 31 and ends Feb. 18, 2015; according to the Chinese calendar, it is the year 4712.

馬年  
Year of the Horse

### The calendar

Each lunar year is governed by one of 12 animals whose characteristics are tempered by one of the five Chinese elements, metal, water, wood, fire and earth, which overlay a 5-year cycle of characteristics on the original 12-year cycle

Dates to 2600 B.C., when Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac



The color of the 2014 Year of the Horse is green



© 2014 MCT  
Source: Chinese websites  
Graphic: Tim Goheen

This Year of the Horse begins a new 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac along with the element wood

### Those born during the Year of the Wood Horse

... are the most reasonable and less impatient than the other five types of horses; horses in general are active, energetic, strong-willed and strive for freedom and happiness; sometimes they can be extremely independent and refuse to listen to advice



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## LABORERS

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Mainland China will virtually shut down for the next seven days, and many residents of the polluted capital, Beijing, already have departed for holiday destinations. A continuing campaign against waste and corruption foreshadows more modest celebrations this year, while a crackdown on air pollution seems to be reining in the usual orgy of fireworks.

The holiday is generally a time for feasting and visiting friends and relatives, along with making visits to Buddhist and Taoist temples, many of which hold fairs and stage performances. Mainland Chinese have traditionally tuned into the annual New Year's Eve variety show, which state broadcaster CCTV is hoping to reinforce this year with a cast of bigger-wattage stars overseen by popular film director Feng Xiaogang.



## FRUITS OF GOOD FORTUNE

## Give a citrusy kick to Lunar New Year



BILL HOGAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Give a citrusy kick to the Lunar New Year with this recipe for orange ginger chicken.

By **BILL DALEY**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Welcome the Year of the Horse with a citrusy kick that will not only deliver good flavor right now but also will promise good fortune in the months ahead.

Citrus fruits like oranges, kumquats and pomelos are traditional for the Lunar New Year, which begins Jan. 31 this year. They are used for decoration, given as gifts or snacked on. But cookbook author Grace Young says citrus fruit also has its place in cooking, particularly now when everyone is focused on new beginnings.

"We're watching our weight," says the New York City-based author of "Stir-Frying to the Sky's Edge" and two other cookbooks. "We want to eat healthily, and it's good to have that hit of vitamin C. I think, for a stir-fry, oranges are beautiful."

Oranges and other citrus are Lunar New Year must-haves because they are rich in symbolism in terms of color, shape and the puns that can be made off their Chinese names, says Terese Tse Bartholomew, curator emeritus of Himalayan art and Chinese decorative art at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and author of the book "Hidden Meanings in Chinese Art."

"It's the color," says Bartholomew, speaking of oranges. "It's the color of gold. People want the new year to bring them money. Have you heard the Cantonese new year greeting? 'May you explode in wealth.' People must have these wealth-giving things."

During the new year, adults

will place two oranges, preferably with leaves still attached as a sign of green life, along with red envelopes of money next to the pillows of sleeping children, she says.

Puns are very much the thing. An orange is called "gut" in Cantonese, which ties in with "dai gut," or good fortune, Bartholomew explained. Pomelo is called "you," which sounds like the Cantonese word for "to have." So, households will have one, preferably two, pomelos on hand to symbolize the desire "to have all your wishes come true," she says. The Cantonese name for kumquat sounds like "gumgut" and is a pun on gold—"gum"—and good fortune—"dai gut." That's why candied kumquats are a traditional new year's treat.

You should have luck finding citrus now because this is peak season.

"Sweet treats are a huge thing for Viet Tet gatherings. You set out an assortment for guests to nibble at tea," writes Andrea Nguyen, author of "Into the Vietnamese Kitchen." (Tet is the Vietnamese word for Lunar New Year.) "I take a nontraditional route by making candied orange peels for Tet. Being in California, it's totally apropos and takes full advantage of our seasonal local bounty, which is at the core, the essence, of Viet cooking and Tet."

**Orange-Ginger Chicken**

**Prep:** 30 minutes **Marinate:** 30 minutes **Cook:** 6 minutes

**Makes:** 2 to 3 servings as a main dish with rice; 4 as part of a multicourse meal

Grace Young adapted her

Hong Kong-style mango ginger chicken from "Stir-Frying to the Sky's Edge" for us.

12 ounces skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into 1/4-inch-thick bite-size slices

2 tablespoons egg white, lightly beaten

2 1/4 teaspoons cornstarch

4 teaspoons Shaoxing rice wine or dry sherry

3/4 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons plus 2 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil

1/3 cup chicken broth

2 teaspoons soy sauce

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes

1 navel orange

1 tablespoon minced ginger

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1 medium green pepper, julienned

1/2 cup thinly sliced red onions

Combine the chicken, egg white, 2 teaspoons cornstarch, 2 teaspoons rice wine and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl. Stir until the cornstarch is totally dissolved and no clumps are visible. Add 2 teaspoons of the oil; stir to combine. Refrigerate, uncovered, 30 minutes. Combine the broth, soy sauce, red pepper flakes, the remaining 2 teaspoons rice wine and 1/4 teaspoon cornstarch in a small bowl.

Zest the orange; reserve the zest. Remove white pith from the orange with a sharp paring knife. Working over a bowl to catch any drips, carefully slide

See CITRUSY on Next Page

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## CITRUSY

From Page 19

the knife on either side of each membrane to free the orange segments, letting segments fall into the bowl.

Heat 1 quart water to a boil in a saucepan. Add 1 tablespoon oil. Reduce the heat to low. When the water is barely simmering, carefully add the chicken, gently stirring so that the pieces do not clump together. Cook until the chicken just turns opaque but is not cooked through, about 1 minute. Carefully drain the chicken in a colander, shaking the colander to remove any excess water.

Heat a 14-inch wok or 12-inch skillet over high heat until a bead of water vaporizes within 1 to 2 seconds of contact. Swirl the remaining 1 tablespoon oil into the wok; add the ginger and garlic. Stir-fry until fragrant, 10 seconds. Add the bell peppers and red onions; stir-fry until the bell peppers are almost crisp-tender, 1 minute. Add the chicken; sprinkle with the remaining ½ teaspoon salt. Restir the broth mixture; swirl it into the wok. Stir-fry until the chicken is just cooked through, 1 minute. Stir in the orange segments, zest and any accumulated juices.

*Nutrition information per serving: 257 calories, 11 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 63 mg cholesterol,*

*13 g carbohydrates, 26 g protein, 1,008 mg sodium, 2 g fiber*

### Pomelo and Crab Salad

**Prep:** 25 minutes **Cook:** 6 minutes

**Makes:** 4 to 6 servings as part of a shared meal

A recipe from Australia's Luke Nguyen, author of "The Food of Vietnam" (Hardie Grant, \$50). Grapefruit can be substituted for the pomelo, if necessary. Luke Nguyen, a Sydney restaurateur, is author of four cookbooks and is a television cooking-show host. Vietnamese mint is also known as Vietnamese coriander or rau ram, according to "The New Food Lover's Companion." Look for the herbs and other specialty ingredients in an Asian grocery. If you cannot find them, leave them out, the salad will still be delicious.

1 ¾ ounces dried shrimp, about 1 ½ cups

2 tablespoons oil

1 garlic clove, finely diced

1 large pink pomelo, or 2 small pink pomelos

7 ounces picked, cooked crab meat

5 mint leaves, sliced

5 perilla leaves, sliced

5 Vietnamese mint leaves, sliced

5 Thai basil leaves, sliced

1 tablespoon fried red Asian shallots

2 teaspoons fried garlic chips

3 tablespoons nuoc cham dipping sauce, see recipe

1 large red chili, sliced

Crushed roasted peanuts

1. Soak the dried shrimp in water, 1 hour; drain.

2. Add the oil to a hot frying pan. Add the garlic; cook until fragrant, 5-10 seconds. Add the dried shrimp; stir-fry until crispy and golden brown, about 3 minutes. Remove from the pan; allow to cool.

3. Peel and segment the pomelo. Break into bite-size pieces; place in a large bowl. Add the cooled garlic and shrimp mixture, the crabmeat, herbs, fried shallots, garlic chips and nuoc cham. Toss together well. Transfer to a serving dish; garnish with the chili and peanuts. Serve garnished with extra herbs.

**Nuoc cham dipping sauce:** Combine ½ cup water, 3 tablespoons each of fish sauce and white vinegar, and 2 tablespoons sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir well; cook until just below boiling point is reached. Remove pan from heat; cool. Stir in 2 chopped garlic cloves, 1 thinly sliced chili and 2 tablespoons lime juice. Store in a tightly sealed jar in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

*Nutrition information per serving (for 6 servings): 118 calories, 5 g fat, 0.5 g saturated fat, 68 mg cholesterol, 6 g carbohydrates, 11 g protein, 285 mg sodium, 1 g fiber*

### Candied Orange Peel

**Prep:** 30 minutes **Soak:** Overnight **Cook:** 30 minutes **Makes:**

60 to 70 candied peels, each 2 to 3 inches long

"These sweetmeats are not traditional new year fare, but since navel oranges are at their peak in California during Tet, the peels have found a place in my annual candy-making production," writes Andrea Nguyen in her cookbook, "Into the Vietnamese Kitchen: Treasured Foodways, Modern Flavors." Scrub the oranges well if there's a waxy coating on them. Andrea Nguyen suggests dipping the peels in melted dark chocolate if a "touch of decadence" is desired.

6 small or 5 medium blemish-free, thick-skinned oranges, preferably California navels

1 2/3 plus ¼ cup sugar

¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons water

1. Trim ¼ to ½ inch from both ends of each orange. Reveal some flesh to make removing the peel easier. Make cuts, from top to bottom and at 1-inch intervals, around each orange. Make sure the knife goes through the peel and pith down to the flesh. Use your fingers to remove the peel from the orange in sections. Cut each section lengthwise into 1/3-inch-wide strips.

2. Put the peels into a saucepan; add enough water so that they float. Cover with a lid or plastic wrap; refrigerate overnight.

3. Drain the peels. Return them to the saucepan; again add enough water so the peels float. Heat to a boil over medium heat; then drain. This mellows the harsh flavor of the peels.

4. Put a wire rack on a baking sheet; place the baking sheet nearby for drying the finished strips. Put 1 2/3 cups sugar and all the water in a wide, high-sided skillet that can accommodate the strips in a single layer. Heat to a boil over medium heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Add the peels; lower the heat to a simmer. Cook until glazed and shiny, 25-30 minutes. Occasionally stir the peels and swirl the pan to ensure even cooking; lower the heat as needed to prevent scorching. During candying, the plump peels will shrink, straighten out and soften. The white pith will turn golden and somewhat translucent.

5. Use tongs to transfer each strip to the rack, placing them orange side up and not touching. Discard the sugar syrup. Allow the peels to dry until they feel tacky, about 1 hour.

6. To coat the peels, put the remaining ¼ cup sugar in a small bowl. Drop in a few strips at a time; shake the bowl back and forth to coat them well. Transfer to a plate; repeat with the remaining peels. Store strips in an airtight container at room temperature for up to a week.







A woman shops decorations for Chinese new year in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.



Shoppers look at the Chinese Dragon Bamboo decorations displayed ahead on the Chinese Lunar New Year on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, Jan. 27, 2014.

# 11 THINGS TO KNOW

## about Lunar New Year

By GRACE HUANG  
CNN

It's that time again: Lunar New Year.

Red packets of money will change hands and dragon dances will roar through the streets as people around the world, predominately of Chinese descent, usher in the Year of the Horse.

Beyond the usual Lunar New Year traditions, however, is a holiday full of interesting quirks and customs.

### 1 Locals don't call it Chinese New Year

In China, the festivities are known as spring festival or Lunar New Year—the new year is determined by the lunar calendar.

And the Chinese aren't the only ones who observe it.

From late January to mid-February, Korea, Vietnam, Japan and other countries celebrate Lunar New Year.

### 2 Traffic is chaos

Lunar New Year is basically like having an entire country throw a family reunion—all at once.

Traffic Armageddon inevitably strikes.

In China, the Spring Festival travel rush period (chunyun) is the country's, if not the world's, biggest season of human migration.

Whether pushing their way into packed buses, buying black-market tickets from scalpers or standing for hours on a crowded train, travelers do whatever it takes to see loved ones.

With commuters and migrant workers returning home, the government expects 3.62 billion journeys to take place this year, according to Xinhua news.

In Korea last year, nearly 30 million people visited their hometowns by car, bus, train or plane, according to the Korea Expressway Corp.

### 3 It's not just one day

Lunar New Year lasts 15 days, starting from Jan. 31, 2014.

This year its last day falls on Valentine's Day.

It's an action-packed holiday—you can bet on horse races, watch parades, bargain in bazaars and fight for prime worship spot at the temple.

### 4 It's a season of superstitions

During Lunar New Year, you live like a college student on the first day—which means no showers, laundry or cleaning.

Above all, there's no taking out the trash—doing so is said to wash away your luck and prosperity.

You hang out with family (especially in-laws) on the second day, which is considered the beginning of the year.

On the third day, visiting friends and family is frowned upon, because it's a day prone to arguments.

On the seventh day, it's time to party in celebration of everyone's birthday.

### 5 You can rent a boyfriend

Lunar New Year can  
See **THINGS** on Next Page

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
CHINESE NEW YEAR?  
GONG XI FA CAI!



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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

#### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

**CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".**

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address [alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org](mailto:alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**ALAN W. FLETCHER**  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## THINGS

From Page 21

be rough for singles, especially females.

Many family reunions are highlighted by dreaded interrogations of singles who haven't settled down.

Now there's a solution—boyfriend rentals.

China's largest online retailer, Taobao, has a section for fake boyfriend rentals, so parents and relatives can finally stop nagging.

Renting a bogus marriage prospect ranges from RMB 500 (\$82) to 8,000 (\$1,321) per day.

The package comes with "a free embrace, hand holding and a goodbye kiss on the cheek," as well as a list of additional specific service charges.

According to *People's Daily*, dinner costs RMB 50 (\$8) an hour and a trip to the movies is RMB 30 (\$5)—double if it's a thriller.

### 6 Odd linguistic customs are observed

In parts of China, there are a few things you can and can't do over the Lunar New Year holiday—simply because of how they sound.

Footwear purchases are off limits for the entire lunar month, as the term for shoes (haai) sounds like losing and sighing in Cantonese.

You can however, turn the Chinese character for luck (fu) upside down to make "dao" (which sounds like arrival) and put it on your door to bring in good fortune for the new year.

### 7 Firecrackers are for scaring away monsters

Legend says the half-dragon, half-lion monster

"Nian" comes out of hiding and attacks people (especially children) during the Lunar New Year.

His weakness? Sensitive ears. In the old days, people would light bamboo stalks on fire to frighten the monster.

Nowadays, you can watch spectacular fireworks display along the Hong Kong waterfront or play with firecrackers in a Beijing *hutong*.

### 8 Red undies are critical for some

Red is associated with luck and prosperity, but it's used mainly for protective purposes.

In addition to being spooked by loud noises, "Nian" is frightened by the color red, which explains all the red you see on Lunar New Year decorations.

For those born in the Year of the Horse—turning 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84 and 96 this year—red undergarments are a must.

Not because that pesky Lunar New Year monster has X-ray vision, but because red undies supposedly fend off misfortune in this unlucky year.

Interestingly, the Cantonese term for pants (fu) sounds exactly like the word for wealth.

### 9 It's a time for sweets

Food is central to all Chinese festivals, but sugary snacks are especially important for LNY, since they sweeten up prospects for the coming year.

Traditional holiday treats include *nian gao* (rice pudding), *babaofan* (eight treasure rice), *jau goks* (crispy dumplings), candied fruits and seeds.

### 10 It has its own movie genre

China and Hong Kong have a film genre called "hesuipian" devoted to Lunar New Year.

The films are usually illogical, uplifting comedies, with a focus on families and happy endings to make viewers feel warm and fuzzy. Similar to Christmas movies, really.

Holiday favorites include the "All's Well, Ends Well" series (the 1992 classic stars Stephen Chow and Maggie Cheung), "Fat Choi Spirit" and "It's a Mad Mad World."

### 11 Customs are flexible

Customs and superstitions aren't set in stone.

There's room for flexibility in interpretation and application. Banning shoes for the entire lunar month?

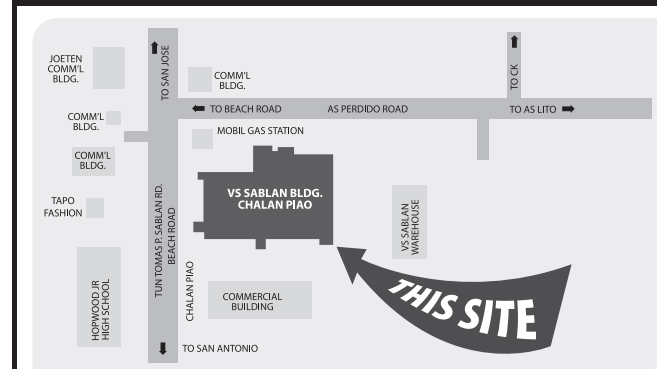
That depends on how you read the rules—the word for shoe might sound like sighing, but it also sounds like harmony (hexie).

Not showering for the sake of Lunar New Year?

Many pass on that for obvious hygienic reasons.

In the end, Lunar New Year is really about having a great time with family and friends, so many opt not to sweat the details.

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-010

#### SAN ANTONIO AND GARAPAN SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewerline in San Antonio and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in Garapan and San Antonio area. The project is to replace approximately ± 1099 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 887 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, ± 374 LF of existing 15-inch ACP, existing concrete manhole repairs, 6-inch and 4-inch service laterals connection, wastewater by pass pumping and road restoration. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 5, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-010, San Antonio and Garapan Sewerline Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 05, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to LCDR Brian Bearden, Senior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address [brian.bearden@cucgov.org](mailto:brian.bearden@cucgov.org) and Birhen Martinez, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email address [birhen.martinez@cucgov.org](mailto:birhen.martinez@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**ALAN W. FLETCHER**  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



# Saipan International School



MARK RABAGO

From left, Saipan International School director emeritus Roland Johnson, SIS administrative staff Mili Saiki, and SIS headmaster Dr. Dale Jenkins.

## SIS celebrates 20 years of offering world-class education

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan International School is a testament of how parental involvement in a span of 20 years has literally grown from a mom-and-pop operation to one of the premier schools in the CNMI, according to the school's director emeritus, Roland Johnson.

SIS is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, as it was in September 1994 that the school, then located in a two-story apartment in Oleai, first opened its doors to 45 students.

Johnson said the school was actually borne out of necessity after the owner of Smith Preschool and Preparatory Academy told parents of her students in 1993 that she was leaving. Ingelein Smith at the time was taking care of 25-30 children in her small Papago school.

"We didn't have many choices then. It's either you go to Catholic schools or public schools here. I think there was not even a Head Start then," said Johnson.

Led by Clifford Grauers, an executive from Hyatt Regency Saipan who had some experience with an international school in Singapore, a small band of parents started meeting regularly and planted the seed in what would eventually become SIS a year later.

"We were very primitive then and everything was done on a voluntary basis, from repairing the building, to electrical work, to fixing chairs and desks, they were all done on as-needed basis. We also didn't have that much money then and it was the real issue. But as the English would say, we muddled our-

selves through it," said Johnson.

Other key members of the group that set up SIS were the signatories of the school's articles of incorporation. These are people Johnson and SIS headmaster Dale Jenkins refer to as the school's founders. They include Dennis Yoshimoto, Patrick K. Calvo, James Weathersbee, Virginia Villagomez, Pauleen Burger, and Bibine Forrester.

SIS also owes its existence to the school's first principal, Karen King, a retired teacher from California who, Johnson said, was the person who recruited SIS' first teachers.

By 1996, the burgeoning school had outgrown its original Oleai home and, with the help of Victoria Vaughan, SIS transferred its campus to a bigger and more ideal location in As Lito, where the current school now stands.

SIS' first building at its new campus in As Lito—a Quonset hut—has since been named after Vaughan's father and is known as Akiyama Hall.

The school would later add a middle school/administration building, music building, and the Tan Siu Lin Building, which was donated by the Tan family. Incidentally, Dr. Tan Siu Lin, the family patriarch, also serves as director emeritus, along with Johnson and Betty Johnson.

Dr. Dale Jenkins, who assumed the Headmaster post in 2004, said he always admired Johnson and company's gung-ho spirit in establishing the school and marveled at how it has grown the past two decades, essentially adding a grade level each year.

"The founders had a very clear definition and very clear philosophy of the school that it

was designed as a small school with individualized attention. It would also develop academics, social, physical, and a whole-children type approach. All board members are parents and

See SIS on Page 24

**Congratulations**  
Saipan International School on your  
**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**



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Saipan International School is celebrating 20 years of academic excellence.

We would like to show our commitment to the CNMI with our **Financial Aid Program** (up to \$2,000 per year) for Elementary age (K5 to 5) students born in the CNMI, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Application forms are available from the school office.

**Deadline for submission is March 1, 2014.**

For further information please call 288 9660.



## SIS

From Page 23

they literally own the school.”

Jenkins said that level of parental involvement in running SIS’ affairs has become the tradition of the school and that approach has succeeded well beyond their wildest dreams.

Proof of that is SIS students have been accepted to some of the best schools in the world and are doing very well.

“It’s fair to say we’ve become more academic. That’s why all the students here take up as many as five Advance Placement courses to help them prepare for university or college. Many also choose to take an additional AP course, which makes a total of six AP courses, which is a very rigorous academic load.”

SIS is not only about books. It also encourages its students to be involved in sports and service activities.

“The school has always had a great tradition of physical activity so our sports teams are very involved and our kids are really into sports, whether it be volleyball, basketball, soccer, and the likes. The issue there is not so much focusing on sports and winning games but developing sportsmanship and also learning to work with people in cooperative groups.”

Jenkins is also proud of the school’s “Destino Peru” program, where high school students go on a study tour of the

South American country, with Mili Chavez Saiki chaperoning them. Saiki is part of the school’s administration staff.

“For the past 10 years Ms. Mili leads our students to experience the people, country, and culture of Peru. That has made a tremendous impact on the students because they go there for three weeks. They’re not just tourists as they actually go in and contribute their time to hospitals and orphanages. Many come back and say it’s a life-changing experience for them. It’s not just a vacation, it’s more of a study tour.”

Among the challenges the school has faced in recent years, Jenkins said, is the federalization of immigration, which affected SIS’ enrollment figures. Fortunately, the school was able to adjust quickly and has benefitted with the help of SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, which is a U.S. government database that allows schools and federal immigration agencies to exchange data on the status of international students.

“Federalization of immigration affected us but we became involved with the SEVIS organization to develop the ability to issue the I-20 status forms that lead to gaining a student visa. We were the first school on Saipan authorized by SEVIS to do that. We ended up with more non-immigrant student visas. Residents still make up two-thirds of our student population but one-third is now



Saipan International School director emeritus Roland Johnson, right, and SIS headmaster Dr. Dale Jenkins pose in front of the entrance to the Akiyama Building.

made up of nonresidents.”

Jenkins said the influx of nonresident students has been a blessing because they have brought a lot of diversity to the school and helped enrich it.

Another blessing Jenkins is thankful for are the continued donation of Education Tax Credit by local businesses and individuals to SIS.

“ETCs are the lifeblood of schools on Saipan. We’re very fortunate in having companies and people helping us. Every dollar that they give, that’s one less dollar that has to be paid for by tuition. ETC donations help schools have high-quality programs that we could not afford without them. Some international schools charge over

\$30,000 per year for tuition but in part, because of the ETC we are able to keep our tuition rates much lower. We are very grateful for each gift of an ETC donation that we receive.”

An SIS achievement Johnson is especially proud of is the school’s continued accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. SIS first

got the WASC’s nod in 1998 under the term of then principal Rachel Udstuen.

“WASC has recognized SIS’ academic excellence by giving it the highest possible accreditation terms of six years that runs until 2017. As a school, that was a big goal. If you get accredited, you’ve arrived!”

Johnson and Jenkins said the future bodes well for SIS, which is planning to expand its scholarship to elementary students who are born in the NMI.

“Plans are to continue to refine what we have. We are developing our use of technology in education and how it helps individualize each student’s learning. We’ve been here for 20 years now. We now want to offer an elementary scholarship program, which is aimed at reducing tuition for our elementary students who are residents of Saipan and make it more affordable for them,” said Jenkins.

He said the scholarship could be worth as much as \$2,000 for qualified elementary students.

After 20 years, a four-fold increase in the original number of enrollees, and more than 50 high school graduates, Johnson could now say that the SIS experiment has been an unqualified success.

“From worrying about what our kids are going to do in school to 20 years later and SIS is one of the premier schools on Saipan. This is the fruition of all of that and it’s pretty remarkable!”



### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP14-DOC-051

#### “Development of the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program's Web Site and Consumer Web-based Database Application”

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), is seeking qualified proposals to develop and implement a web site and consumer web-based database application specific to the CNMI for the “Development of the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program's Web Site and Consumer Web-based Database Application”.

The complete RFP packet will be available on or after **January 24, 2014** and may be picked up at the CNMI Procurement and Supply Office located in Lower Base Drive, Saipan.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Title 70 of the NMIAC CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Questions** regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu** Consumer Assistance Program Advocacy Officer/Project Manager via email to **kaitlynmocanu@commerce.gov.mp** or via fax to: (670) 664-3067 no later than **4:30 p.m. local time, February 20, 2014**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and Experiences: 30%
- Technical Merit/Response to RFP: 30%
- On-Site Availability/Commitment to Resources: 25%
- Cost: 15%

Award of the contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Performance time for completion of the Development of the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program's Web Site and Consumer Web-based Database Application is for the **90 days** upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Proposal shall be valid for **60 days** after closure of RFP.

All proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP14-DOC-051** and in compliance with the Request for Proposal structure and include an original and five (5) hard copies and two (2) electronic copies and submitted no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, March 06, 2014** to:

Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement and Supply  
Lower Base Drive  
P.O. Box 510008 C.K.  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ KAITLYN NEISES-MOCANU  
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
ADVOCACY OFFICER/PROJECT MANAGER



### LAW REVISION COMMISSION Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands JUDICIAL BRANCH

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLICATIONS CLERK & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

##### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate will work under the Executive Director of the Law Revision Commission / General Counsel for the Judicial Branch on Saipan. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs a full range of secretarial and administrative support duties for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Receives and screens visitors and callers; responds to inquiries and/or directs them to the appropriate authority; places calls and e-mail messages on behalf of the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Performs duties of a highly confidential nature;
- Coordinates and arranges meetings and appointments for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Establishes and maintains a calendar for the Executive Director/General Counsel;
- Transcribes meeting minutes from written notes and/or audio recordings;
- Coordinates and assists the Executive Director/General Counsel with special projects;
- Adheres to and complies with all promulgated policies, standards, and codes of ethical conduct;
- Assists with the compilation, formatting and printing of electronic files of statutes, judicial decisions and regulations for publication in print and electronic media by providing administrative support;
- Responds to orders of Commission publications at the office and by packaging, mailing and delivering publications to subscribers, maintaining up-to-date subscribers' list, keeping inventory of publications in stock and maintaining documents re: publications sold;
- Contacts purchasers and potential purchasers regarding LRC products and services;
- Scans, cleans and converts documents to create searchable pdf files;
- Prepares monthly and annual sales reports and transmits cash and check sales to the Judiciary Cashier, enters credit card sales and other transactions into financial management system;
- Prepares timesheets;
- Drafts correspondence and other documents when requested;
- Opens office at 8 a.m. on a daily basis, closes office for lunch from 12:00 p.m., opens office at 1:00 p.m. after lunch, and closes office at 5:00 p.m.; time and attendance are critical;
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

##### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Publications Clerk/Administrative Assistant should possess an Associate's Degree or a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of one (1) year work experience in office clerical work and have computer, word processing and secretarial skills. Legal secretary, website operation and/or publication office experience is preferred. College credits and/or business trade school is preferred. Must be extremely punctual and have impeccable attendance.

**COMPENSATION:** This position is exempt from civil service. The salary will be \$18,500 annually.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero  
Human Resource/Administrative Officer  
Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 236-9818  
Fax. (670) 236-9702  
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



# FHB report: Saipan sales volume up almost 18 pct.

## »Ninth consecutive quarter of positive growth

**GUALO RAI, Saipan**—First Hawaiian Bank's 2013 Business Activity Report for Saipan showed a 17.68 percent increase for "same store sales" over 2012, according to Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and CNMI Region Manager. The 2013 fourth quarter 12.43 percent increase over prior fourth quarter 2012 marked the ninth consecutive quarter of positive growth since 2011.

"We have seen overall double-digit increases for nine straight quarters beginning with fourth quarter 2011 and in fourth quarter 2013, seven of the 11 sectors posted double digit increases," said Dacanay. "This reflects a stronger tourism industry that has been working to attract more visitors, especially those from Russia who stay for extended periods compared to other tourists. The top three sectors for the year of travel activities 31.59 percent, hotels 27.64 percent, and retail 21.69 percent, were all helped

by this resurgence in tourism. We are very encouraged by the increased economic activities in the market."

The BAR monitors tracks card sales activity in 11 different economic sectors including retail, hotels, home improvement, restaurants, shipping and travel activities, among others.

First Hawaiian is a major card processor of debit and credit sales transactions. In 2013, the bank processed over \$4.4 billion worth of credit and debit sales transactions.

The bank provides merchant services to nearly 7,000 First Hawaiian Bank merchant locations throughout Hawaii, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Mainland.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with assets of \$17.1 billion was founded in 1858 and has been serving the CNMI region for over 16 years. The bank processes all major U.S. credit cards as well as JCB, China Union Pay, and BC Global Card. (**FHB**)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### NEW PHONE BOOKS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos takes delivery of the first 2014 CNMI phone books from IT&E Business Sales manager Jay-R S. Dominguez, IT&E Business Account manager Julie Manglona, and IT&E marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala.

Geotesting, Inc. has an opening for:

#### One (1) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician

**Qualifications:** Associates degree in Civil Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience as a Soils/Materials Technician.

**Duties:** Assist in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assist in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assist in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assist in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assist in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to [geotesting@geogum.com](mailto:geotesting@geogum.com) or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

### GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY is looking for

Teacher – Middle School – Science/Math

- Must be a BA degree holder
- At least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian school;
- Must be flexible and willing to handle other grade levels when needed;
- Must adhere to all school policies and procedures;
- Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;

Download and complete application form at [www.gca-nmi.com](http://www.gca-nmi.com). and mail to Grace Christian Academy, P.O. Box 500643, Saipan, MP 96950.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting individuals to apply for the following positions:

#### Sports Reporter

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English or any related course; At least 2 years experience in sports writing. Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax. Must be able to write stories based on score sheets. Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment. Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on a short notice. Must be computer literate and have photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, February 10, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

### PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PTZ CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-14

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of PTZ cameras and security and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning January 10, 2014 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of PTZ cameras and Surveillance System, Project No. CPA-RFP-006-14". One original and four copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, February 7, 2014, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 23, 2014 at the Port of Saipan Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit may be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Seaport Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Acting Executive Director

#### CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

- **ANAKS Condominium:** 1 top unit available. 2-Bedroom, 2 Bathroom. Asking: \$1,000.00/mo – semi furnished Asking: \$1,100.00/mo – fully furnished

#### HOUSE FOR RENT

- **San Jose House:** 5-bedroom and 2.5-bathroom in San Jose. Good Location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: \$800.00/mo- furnished Asking: \$650.00/mo- unfurnished

#### HOUSE FOR RENT

- **Kagman:** 3-bedroom and 2-bathroom in Kagman bordering Laolao Bay golf course. Private Residence. Internal courtyard with swimming pool, Solar water heater, G4s Security Alarm & Service, 2,000 square meters property and furnished. Asking: \$1,000.00/mo

#### MIDDLE ROAD PROPERTY

- **Middle Road:** Commercial Frontage Road location in middle road CMG intersection, 7,000 square meters. Asking: \$400,000.00

#### HOUSE LOTS FOR SALE

- **Capitol Hill:** Ocean view house lot location in Capitol Hill, 1,000 square meters Asking: \$30,000.00

#### GUALO RAI PROPERTY

- **Gualo Rai:** Vacant Land for sale 4,000 square meters Asking: \$50,000.00

#### VACANT LAND IN TINIAN

- **Tinian:** Vacant Land in Tinian for sale. Lot 114 T14: 4,185 square meters. Asking: \$7,500.00 Lot 114 T05: 25,000 square meters. Asking: \$45,000.00 Lot 102 T21: 3,643 square meters. Asking: \$7,300.00 Lot 118 T04: 1,190 square meters. Asking: \$2,500.00

#### SADOG TASI PROPERTY

- **Sadog Tasi:** Vacant Land for sale 40,280 square meters Asking: \$30.00 per square meter

#### COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE

- **Horizon Building:** Commercial Building for sale location in Garapan, 4,000 square feet with warehouse Asking: \$400,000.00

#### ROOMS FOR RENT

- **San Jose Rooms:** Rooms for rent in San Jose. Good Location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: \$100.00 to \$120.00/mo (depending on room size) plus power



### Alexander Realty

Alexander Building, Beach Road San Jose, Saipan MP 96950  
For inquiries please contact Alexander Realty at:  
234-5117 or e-mail: [roy.alexander@saipan.com](mailto:roy.alexander@saipan.com)  
Website: [www.realtysaipan.com](http://www.realtysaipan.com)

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

#### Aquaculture Farmer

Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

#### Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor

Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 13, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



# Man allegedly stole neighbor's typhoon shutters

A man who was arrested on Jan. 15 for allegedly burglarizing two of his neighbors' houses in Finasisu was arrested again Wednesday after investigation showed he was also the one who stole typhoon shutters from the same neighbor in November.

Pedro C. Manalo Jr., 28, was

taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday for bail hearing for the offense of theft.

Govendo allowed Manalo to post a \$6,000 property bond.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched on Nov. 30 to a house

in Finasisu where a theft incident had been reported.

Pangelinan said the house owner reported that his 14 aluminum typhoon shutters that he bought for over \$2,000 had been stolen and that he suspected his neighbor Manalo as the culprit.

The victim disclosed that Manalo previously stole his

bush cutter.

Pangelinan said police arrested Manalo last Jan. 15 and on their way to the Department of Corrections, the suspect admitted stealing the shutters outside of the neighbor's house.

Manalo told police he stole the shutters on a Saturday and sold them for not more than \$30 at a

recycling center.

Pangelinan said during a review of the surveillance footage at Triple Star Recycling Center in As Perdido, it appeared that Manalo came to the center last Nov. 22 on a pickup truck, where he then unloaded the shutters.

Invoices indicated that Manalo was paid \$28.70.

Police first arrested Manalo on Jan. 15 after investigation showed he was allegedly responsible for burglarizing two houses of his neighbors last Oct. 16 and Dec. 23. He was identified after the neighbor caught him allegedly in the act of burglarizing the other neighbor.

## Web Soil Survey now available for Hawaii, A. Samoa, and Micronesia

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—Curious about the ground beneath you? The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service updated soil data for each of the soil survey areas mapped in the Pacific Islands Area. These surveys cover the State of Hawaii, the Territory of American Samoa, the Territory of Guam, the Common-

wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. This effort updated the spatial (soil mapping) and tabular (physical and chemical properties, and interpretations) data for all soil survey areas.

Web Soil Survey is the

most widely used website for accessing soil information used to make important land use decisions. The updated data means that WSS will work for all PIA soil surveys. This is the first time WSS has worked for PIA soil surveys outside of Hawaii. In WSS soil maps are overlain on satellite imagery and users can

make custom soil maps and interpretation reports. WSS can be accessed at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. Detailed instructions on how to use the features of WSS are provided at that site. And, it's all free.

"We are excited to have this data readily available for our customers and partners," said

Christine Clarke, Acting Director for the NRCS Pacific Islands Area. "Accurate and timely soil survey information is critical to those managing our natural resources. It is exciting to provide this information to the public to support sound decision making and wise land use choices."

For more information about Web Soil Survey contact Dr. Cindy Stiles at [cynthia.stiles@hi.usda.gov](mailto:cynthia.stiles@hi.usda.gov) for assistance with soil surveys in Hawaii and American Samoa or Dr. Bob Gavenda at [bob.gavenda@pb.usda.gov](mailto:bob.gavenda@pb.usda.gov) for assistance with soil surveys in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. You may also visit us at [www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov). **(NRCS)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Customers aboard the first Century Tours/Dynamic Airways flight from Hangzhou to Saipan arrive early yesterday morning at the Saipan International Airport.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tourists from Hangzhou disembark from the first Century Tours/Dynamic Airways charter flight from that China city.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority hold up a welcome banner from the disembarking passengers from Hangzhou, China.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Century Tours tour guides.

## MHS musical talents in one big show

Marianas High School will stage a special musical offering that will showcase the various talents in its fold—altogether in one concert.

The "Christmas Concert after Christmas" is the third annual concert offering from the school's finest talents. Organized by the school's Fine Arts Department, the event aims to raise funds for the department while offering the community an enchanting night of music.

Harold Easton, MHS performing arts department's musical director, said the special show will feature the school's Show Choir Class to be directed by Easton; the MHS Chorale to be directed by Ruthie Fruit; the Glee Club Rhythm 'N Harmony to be directed by Paul Dujua; and the MHS Dolphin Pep Band to be directed by David Frahm.

This marks the first year that the MHS Dolphin Pep Band will be joining the concert, and the

first time the band will perform a number with the show choir.

The concert arose from a realization that Easton had three years ago. While planning a concert toward the end of the first semester, he realized that they were so busy singing at other peoples' events.

"There was so much going on those two or three weeks before Christmas that we really couldn't do a Christmas concert. So a student suggested we combine the

Christmas concert we could not do with the end of semester concert we were planning," according to Easton.

He invites the public to grace the special event to be held at the Pedro Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Supe on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Both shows will start at 7pm with general admission price of \$5 and for children, \$3.

All proceeds will be used to support the MHS Fine Arts program, according to Easton. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**

## Cleanup at Old Man by the Sea moved to Sugar Dock

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade would like to inform the general public that due to the recent inclement weather condition, the beach cleanup scheduled for this Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, will no longer be at Old Man by the Sea but will now take place at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa, starting at 8am.

We apologize for the short notice; however, the safety of all our volunteers is important to us.

We thank all the volunteers and we hope that you all will continue joining or assisting in the cleanup brigade. Let's continue to keep our island clean.

For more information, contact our office at 664-8500. **(PR)**



# Off the Wall

## Hundreds of living, dead pythons found in home

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A California schoolteacher was arrested Wednesday after hundreds of living and dead pythons in plastic bins were found stacked floor to ceiling inside his stench-filled home in suburban Orange County.

As investigators wearing respirator masks carried the reptiles out of the house and stacked them in the driveway, reporters and passers-by gagged at the smell. Some held their noses or walked away from the five-bedroom home to get a breath of air.

“The smell alone—I feel like I need to take a shower for a week,” said police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna. “They’re pretty much in all the bedrooms—everywhere.”

Officers said they found more than 400 snakes—at least 220 of them dead—as well as numerous mice and rats, in the Santa Ana home of William Buchman after neighbors complained about the smell. He was arrested for investigation of neglect in the care of animals, Bertagna said.



AP Santa Ana Police Officer Sondra Berg holds a python Wednesday Jan. 29, 2014, in Santa Ana, Calif., after serving a warrant on the home of William Buchman, who has been arrested for investigation of neglect in the care of animals, after authorities found at least 300 living and dead pythons in plastic bins inside Buchman’s stench-filled suburban home.

Buchman, 53, was still in custody Wednesday afternoon, Bertagna said. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District, where he works, declined comment, saying it was a police matter.

Buchman has not yet had a court appearance or been formally charged and it wasn’t

clear if he had an attorney.

Authorities said he lived alone, and neighbors said his mother, who had lived with him, had passed away within the past few years.

Sondra Berg, the supervisor for the Santa Ana Police Department’s Animal Services

Division, said four bedrooms in the home were stacked from floor to ceiling and wall to wall with plastic bins on wooden and metal racks. The bins were packed so tightly, Berg said, that they didn’t require lids because there was no room for the snakes to slither out.

Each snake was catalogued by name and type, and Berg said Buchman told authorities he was involved in a snake-breeding enterprise.

“House of Horrors: That’s the best way to describe it,” Berg said of the house. “I mean there’s so many dead snakes ... ranging from dead for months to just dead. There’s an infestation of rats and mice all over the house. There are rats and mice in plastic storage tubs that are actually cannibalizing each other.”

Some of the snakes were little more than skeletons. Others, only recently dead, were cov-

ered with flies and maggots.

Next-door neighbor Forest Long Sr. said he has known Buchman for years, adding the men had once been friendly, getting together to watch sports on television.

But he noticed a change in his neighbor about a year ago, he said, adding Buchman stopped coming around and, when he did, he appeared to have gained a good deal of weight.

“Something changed in Bill, yes it did,” he said. “Something triggered it because I couldn’t even think that that was going on.”

The odor from the house, meanwhile, became unbearable about five months ago.

“It got so bad as to where my wife would throw up,” Long said. “She’d get out of the car and run into the house.”

He said neighbors speculated that there must be a dead

body inside.

Bertagna said animal control authorities had tried to work with Buchman for several months after neighbors reported the smell. He said they sought a warrant after they were not allowed inside the home.

Berg said Buchman told authorities he was involved in a type of snake breeding called “morphing,” in which owners try to breed different color patterns in the reptiles.

It was a very popular and lucrative enterprise 10 years ago but has declined, she said.

“There was a lot of fast money in it, but now the bottom pretty much fell out of the market because there are so many of these snakes out there,” she said.

At one time, Berg said, a good specimen of the type authorities found could have fetched \$5,000. Today it would be worth only about \$200.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Gassy German cows blamed for barn explosion

BERLIN (AP)—A herd of dairy cows nearly lifted the roof off their barn in central Germany when methane released by the animals caused an explosion. Police in Hesse state said in a statement that a static electric charge apparently triggered the detonation, and a spurt of flame, on Monday at a farm in Rasdorf. The roof was slightly damaged and one cow suffered light burns. No people were hurt. Police say 90 cows are kept in the shed and it wasn’t clear why quantities of methane had built up. Bovine belching and flatulence releases large quantities of the gas.

#### Police: New Mexico woman calls 911 to avoid ticket

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—Authorities say a New Mexico woman called in a fake report of a gunman near a convenience store to help a friend avoid a traffic ticket over a taillight. Roswell police say 22-year-old Savana Jimenez called 911 Sunday morning hoping the officer who pulled over the car she was a passenger in would get dispatched to the fake crime. Authorities say Jimenez called 911 while the officer was checking her friend’s information. Police say Jimenez later admitted making the entire story up so the officer would rush to the fake scene. Roswell police spokeswoman Sabrina Morales says Jimenez told police she thought she had warrants out for her arrest, but officials say she didn’t. Jimenez was arrested and charged with obstruction. It was

unknown if she had an attorney.

#### Maine mom gives birth in driveway

GRAY, Maine (AP)—Frigid temperatures couldn’t stop this delivery. Abigail Cain was in labor and about to leave for the hospital early Friday morning when she had no choice but to give but to give birth while standing in the driveway of her Gray home - in wind chills that reached minus-13 degrees. After the second contraction she felt she had to push, her father. Steve Bronish of Rumford, told

the Sun Journal. She had the car door open and was leaning on the seat when she gave birth to a 7-pound, 5-ounce healthy baby girl named Danica AnneMarie Cain. Her husband, who was inside the house getting a bag to take to the hospital, came out to hear a baby crying. The couple, who has a 2-year-old son, called an ambulance and mom and the baby were taken to the hospital. “It was 10 below out, and she had no help at all and out she came right in the driveway,” Bronish said. “It’s quite an amazing story. I’m pretty excited.”

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB 14-DEQ-053**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2014**  
**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“PURCHASE OF TEN (10) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABULIMAN  
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB 14-MOR-009 (FOB ROTA)**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2014**  
**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“SUPPLY DELIVERY OF ONE (1) COMPLETE UNIT GRID-TIED 5,500 WATT SOLAR POWER SYSTEM FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF ROTA”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MELCHOR A. MENDIOLA  
MAYOR OF ROTA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

Program Year	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Reprogram From	Reprogram to
2010	Planning and Administrative Costs	Planning and Administrative Costs	Ongoing	\$43,375.53	
2011	Planning and Administrative Costs	Planning and Administrative Costs	Ongoing	\$53,649.47	
2013	Public Facilities	Saipan Southern High School Swimming Pool	Ongoing	\$250,000.00	
2011/2012	Public Facilities	Construction of the Junior High School Public Facility (Koblerville)*	Ongoing		\$347,025.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$347,025.00</b>	<b>\$347,025.00</b>

Note\*: The Community Development Grant funds will be allocated to the construction of the Junior High School Public Facility Gymnasium, a part of the master plan for the Construction of the Junior High School Public Facility.

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., February 14, 2014, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman

BRUCE L. MAILMAN, F0153  
MAYA B. KARA, F0169  
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC  
PMB 238 PPP, Box 10,000  
Saipan, MP 96950-8900  
Telephone: 233-0081  
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT**  
**OF THE**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN**  
**MARIANA ISLANDS**

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,	)	<b>CIVIL ACTION</b>
	)	<b>NO. 13-0237A</b>
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	
<b>-v-</b>	)	<b>SUMMONS</b>
<b>MICHAEL P. KILELEMAN</b>	)	
<b>and JULITA ANN TAGABUEL,</b>	)	
<b>aka JULITA T. KILELEMAN,</b>	)	
<b>Defendants.</b>	)	

TO: JULITA ANN TAGABUEL  
aka JULITA T. KILELEMAN  
155 Ireland Road  
Bayboro, North Carolina 28515

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to MAILMAN & KARA, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is PMB 238 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/CLERK OF COURTS

DATED this 27th day of December, 2013.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  - Call to Order
  - Roll Call
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Minutes
    - October 23, 2013 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
  - Division Monthly/Annual Reports
  - Lease Proposal – 003 D 16
  - NMPASI Office Space Request
  - Return and Reallocation Request – Isa Villas
  - Travel Policy
  - Personnel
  - Update on CDBG Matters
    - On-going Projects
    - Amendments to Policies and Procedures
  - Update on NSP Policies and Procedures
  - Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
    - Lease-Up and Waiting List
    - Blue Bay Homes
    - FY 2013 SEMAP Score
    - Koblerville Multifamily Subdivision Boundary Encroachment
    - Project Based Voucher Request for Proposals
    - Reduction in Landlord HAP
  - Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
    - Request to Change Approved Use
    - Request to Retrieve File
    - Request to Refinance
    - Loans for Approval
    - Amendments to HOME Policies and Procedures
- IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**
  - Rota Field Office
  - Tinian Field Office
- V. FISCAL AFFAIRS**
  - FY 2013 and December 2013 Financial Statements
  - Performance Assessment Report
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman of the Board



# Science & Technology

## Crushed by 'Candy Crush Saga'

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Many people remember where they were when man first walked on the moon. I remember where I was when I passed Level 86 of "Candy Crush Saga," the maddeningly addictive game that involves matching bright-hued virtual candies to have them disappear, only to be replaced by more.

I had spent nearly two weeks trying to complete that level over the holidays—on the plane, on the subway, in the car with my family. I was matching candies in bed when I first woke up and before falling asleep. I tried to conquer the sweets on the couch when I should have been wrapping presents. I even brought my phone, um, to the toilet. Don't you?

So it was a moment to remember when, walking up the stairs at the Columbus Circle subway stop during a slushy January commute, the words "sugar crush" appeared on my screen, signaling that I had passed Level 86. In my head, fellow commuters stopped in their path to cheer my accomplishment. I am not sure this was actually the case.

I'm on Level 95 now. There are currently about 500 levels, but more are constantly being added. It recalls Sisyphus, the mythical Greek king forced by the deities to roll a stone up a mountain, only to see it fall back down. Forever.

I'm reading less and spending less time with friends and family, but I keep telling my-

self that I can quit any time. Really, I can. All it takes is holding a finger on the "Candy Crush" app for a few seconds until a black "x" appears on the top left corner. Then it's one tap to delete. Any time.

The other day, a friend and I spent a pleasant evening drinking wine and sharing empanadas at a cozy Chilean bar. Afterward, we boarded the subway and she declared it was "Candy Crush time!" I felt a sense of relief and a tingling rush course through my body. We sat in silence, crushing candies until we got to our respective stops.

### HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

It started innocently enough. Preparing for a long bus ride from New York to Philadelphia in November, I downloaded "Candy Crush" after months of mocking people who play it. I'd encounter them on my morning commute, methodically tapping their phones while I occupied myself with more high-brow activities, such as scanning through the day's news or reading a book.



This undated screenshot shows Candy Crush Saga, the maddeningly addictive mobile game that involves matching bright-hued virtual candies in a row to have them disappear, only to be replaced by more.

Candy now.

The other day, a guy sat next to me on the subway. There was

no secret handshake. He simply glanced at my phone and exclaimed "Daaaaang, that 'Candy Crush,' huh?" I said yes, no kidding.

I saw that I was ahead of him in the number of levels completed and therefore was a better and more successful human being. "Just wait 'til you get to Level 86," I warned. I thought to myself after he left, wait until you get to the chocolate, which spreads like the plague until you run out of room to crush more candy.

The game is free. The first few levels are easy while you get the hang of things. Swipe with a finger to line up three, four or five candies in a row, and they disappear. There are ways to create special candies with special powers that do special things.

The best one comes after you line up five of the same color. It's often called the color bomb. It's a chocolate ball with sprinkles. Swipe it against any other candy, and it will shoot every other candy of that color into the netherworld. Poof.

You get five lives, five chances to fail. There are a few options to get more, including asking your Facebook friends (no, thanks), paying for more (no, thanks), or waiting. Wait 30 minutes and you get a new life.

I have not spent any money so far, tempted as I have been. You have to draw the line somewhere.

I play on my iPhone, though there are versions available for Android and Facebook. A Web version pits you against strangers online. I sometimes resort to that when I'm out of lives on the iPhone.

### DESCENT INTO THE VORTEX

There are plenty of other addictive mobile games out there. There's "Tetris," of course, which I played on my brother's GameBoy back in the day. There's "Bejeweled,"

but the sparkly gems never held the same appeal for me as "Candy Crush." And I don't even like candy.

I'm not alone. "Candy Crush" was the most downloaded free app on both iPhones and iPads in 2013, beating Facebook, Google Maps and YouTube.

It's also the app that made the most money on both. Put another way, even with cheap-skates like me, plenty of players are spending the 99 cents here and there to get more lives or other perks. It's also the No. 1 application on Facebook going by both monthly and daily users, according to research firm AppData.

There are thousands of guides, cheats and in-depth tips online by people who make my obsession with the game seem like child's play.

Good luck. Now if you'll excuse me, I am one quest away from Level 96.

### TECH Q&A

## Some online movies lack closed captioning

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: I am hearing-impaired and need closed captioning on 11 films that I have downloaded to my tablet computer. All these movies have closed captioning capability, but I can't access this feature on any of them. Contacting movie providers Google and Target Ticket hasn't solved the problem.—Ned Fleishman, Coral Gables, Fla.**

**ANSWER:** Strange as it may seem, you can't get closed captioning from all movie download services.

Target's "Target Ticket" service, which allows you to stream or download movies, doesn't provide closed captioning on any of its video, Target spokeswoman Kristy Welker said, but it will be added in the future.

Google's movie streaming and download service, Google Play, explains how to find out which of its videos have closed captioning at <http://tinyurl.com/pdvf6zw>.

The Federal Communications Commission requires closed captioning on Internet video previously seen on broadcast TV with closed captions. But that doesn't cover all movies available online.

**Q: I have two computers running the same version of Windows 7. The laptop running Microsoft's Internet Explorer 10 finds the Fox Sports website when starting from MSN.com, but the desktop running Internet Explorer 11 can't.—Dan Rakit-**

nichan, Minneapolis

**A:** Others have reported a similar problem viewing Fox Sports with Internet Explorer 11. It's unclear whether the problem is mainly browser-website interaction or the fault of advertisement-blocking software that can be added to the browser. If you are using ad-blocking software, add the Fox website to the list of exceptions. Otherwise, try another browser, such as Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome.

**Q: I read your recommendation that a day care provider share children's photos with parents using Dropbox, a free cloud storage service. But what about Google Drive instead? It seems to work the same way, and offers 15 gigabytes of free space compared with 2 gigabytes for Dropbox. I use Microsoft's SkyDrive (7 gigabytes of free space) because I have Windows 8.1.—Dean Woolstencroft, Buffalo, Minn.**

**A:** I suggested Dropbox as it's easy to use and the care provider was willing to pay for a service. You could use Google Drive (<http://tinyurl.com/kczp225>) or SkyDrive (<http://tinyurl.com/qxdma94>), but they're more complex to set up.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.

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**I, FRANKENSTEIN [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. (5:05 PM) 9:50 PM  
Sat. (12:35 PM) 5:05 PM 9:50 PM  
Sun. (12:35 PM) 5:05 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (5:05 PM)

**I, FRANKENSTEIN 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. 7:25 PM  
Sat. - Sun. (2:50 PM) 7:25 PM  
Mon. - Thu. 7:25 PM

**JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT [CC,DV] (NR)**  
Fri. (4:20 PM) 7:20 PM 10:20 PM  
Sat. (12:40 PM) 7:20 PM 10:20 PM  
Sun. (12:40 PM) 7:20 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (4:20 PM) 7:20 PM

**RIDE ALONG [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. (5:20 PM) 7:50 PM 10:25 PM  
Sat. (12:20 PM) 7:50 PM 10:25 PM  
Sun. (12:20 PM) 7:50 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (5:20 PM) 7:50 PM

**THE NUT JOB [CC,DV] (NR)**  
Fri. 7:10 PM 9:30 PM  
Sat. (2:40 PM) 7:10 PM 9:30 PM  
Sun. (2:40 PM) 7:10 PM  
Mon. - Thu. 7:10 PM

**THE NUT JOB 3D [CC,DV] (NR)**  
Fri. (5:00 PM)  
Sat. - Sun. (12:30 PM) 5:00 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (5:00 PM)

**THE LEGEND OF HERCULES [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. (5:15 PM) 10:15 PM  
Sat. (12:25 PM) 5:15 PM 10:15 PM  
Sun. (12:25 PM) 5:15 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (5:15 PM)

**THE LEGEND OF HERCULES 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
Fri. 7:40 PM  
Sat. - Sun. (2:55 PM) 7:40 PM  
Mon. - Thu. 7:40 PM

**THE WOLF OF WALL STREET [CC,DV] (R)**  
Fri. (3:30 PM) 7:00 PM 10:30 PM  
Sat. (12:00 PM) 3:30 PM 7:00 PM 10:30 PM  
Sun. (12:00 PM) 3:30 PM 7:00 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (3:30 PM) 7:00 PM

**12 YEARS A SLAVE [CC,DV] (R)**  
Fri. (4:00 PM) 7:15 PM 10:10 PM  
Sat. (1:00 PM) 4:00 PM 7:15 PM  
Sun. (1:00 PM) 4:00 PM 7:15 PM  
Mon. - Thu. (4:00 PM) 7:15 PM

Times For 01/31 - 02/06 [www.REGALMOVIES.com](http://www.REGALMOVIES.com)

**Science Matters**

### Driving venomous lion into retreat

Biologists believe they may have found a way to control the poisonous lionfish, which entered the Atlantic in 1992 and is now threatening native fish.

- Lionfish, native to Pacific and Indian Oceans, released into Atlantic
- They spread along coast and into Caribbean, kill up to 95 percent of native fish
  - Have no natural predators in Atlantic
  - Aggressive predators
  - Can live in deep water, endure long starvation
- Research study Divers killed 75 to 95 percent of lionfish on 24 reefs in the Bahamas
- Lionfish populations did not rebound there; native fish recovered rapidly

Where lionfish were not removed, native fish kept declining and disappearing

**Native fish hit hardest**

Yellowtail snapper  
Nassau grouper

**Plan for controlling lionfish**

Biologists can help native species recover by creating safe havens, small pockets of reef with few lionfish

Source: Stephanie Green of Oregon State University, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

© 2014 MCT Graphic: Helen McComas



# Life & Style

## Justin Bieber charged with assault in Canada

**TORONTO** (AP)—Justin Bieber has been charged with assault for allegedly hitting a Toronto limousine driver several times in the back of the head last month, the second arrest in a week for the baby-faced 19-year-old pop star.

Bieber turned himself in to a police station Wednesday evening, arriving amid a crush of media and screaming fans. He was charged with one count of assault and is scheduled to appear in court in Toronto on March 10.

Police allege Bieber was one of six people who were picked up by a limousine from a nightclub in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, and there was an altercation while en route to a hotel.

Police said during the altercation one of the passengers hit the limo driver in the back of the head several times.

"The driver stopped the limousine, exited the vehicle and called police," a statement said. "The man who struck him left the scene before police arrived."

Howard Weitzman, Bieber's attorney in California, said his client is innocent and declined to comment on the allegations against Bieber or any potential defense, saying it was now a matter for the court to handle.

Weitzman said he expects the case to be treated as a summary offense, which is the equivalent of a misdemeanor in the United States. "The Toronto Police Ser-



Canadian musician Justin Bieber is swarmed by media and police officers as he turns himself in to city police for an expected assault charge, in Toronto, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014.

vice requested that Justin Bieber appear in Toronto today to face an allegation of assault relating to an incident on December 29, 2013. We anticipate that this matter will be treated as a summary offense, the equivalent of a misdemeanor in the United

States," he said in a statement.

Brian Greenspan, Bieber's Canadian attorney, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Toronto police said in late December they were looking into allegations that a mem-

ber of Bieber's entourage assaulted a limo driver who was ferrying the Canadian pop star and several others. Police said at the time it was unclear whether Bieber was involved. Bieber emerged from a black SUV wearing a winter coat and a backwards ball cap before being led through a throng of police and reporters. Many waited for his arrival for more than an hour in freezing temperatures. He spent about an hour and a half in the police station before leaving through a back exit.

It was yet another sign of the crazy lifestyle that has taken over Bieber's image.

Earlier on Wednesday, Bieber pleaded not guilty in Florida to charges of driving under the influence after driving nearly twice the speed limit on a Miami Beach street. He also pleaded not guilty to resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

## Lamar on Macklemore's wins: 'It's well-deserved'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Kendrick Lamar is taking a philosophical approach to being shut out at the Grammy Awards.

Lamar, one of Sunday night's top nominees with seven nods, was shut out, prompting four-time winner Macklemore to send a text of apology later that night after winning best rap album.

"It's well-deserved. He did what he did, man," Lamar told XXL magazine. "He went out there and hustled and grinded. Everything happens for a reason. The universe comes back around. That's how it go."

Lamar made the remarks after a performance of "Backstreet Freestyle" at rapper Dom Kennedy's show Tuesday night in New York. They come two days after The Recording Acad-

emy's voters gave Macklemore & Ryan Lewis three trophies in the rap categories, angering some in the hip-hop community. Macklemore and Lewis also won best new artist.

There was an effort by the academy's rap committee to exclude Macklemore and Lewis from the rap categories, but it was overruled and the Seattle duo won best rap album for "The Heist" and best rap song and rap performance for "Thrift Shop," featuring Wanz—a pop hit that sold more than 7 million copies.

Macklemore said before the awards that he felt Lamar's "good kid, m.A.A.d. city" should win best rap album. He posted to Instagram a text he sent to Lamar following the awards that said in part:

## Johansson stepping down as Oxfam ambassador

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Scarlett Johansson is ending her relationship with a humanitarian group after being criticized over her support for an Israeli company that operates in the West Bank.

A statement released by Johansson's spokesman Wednesday said the 29-year-old actress has "a fundamental difference of opinion" with Oxfam International because the humanitarian group opposes all trade from Israeli settlements, saying they are illegal and deny Palestinian rights.

"Scarlett Johansson has respectfully decided to end her ambassador role with Oxfam after eight years," the statement said. "She and Oxfam have a fundamental difference of opin-

ion in regards to the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement. She is very proud of her accomplishments and fundraising efforts during her tenure with Oxfam."

Earlier this month, "The Avengers" and "Her" actress signed on as the first global brand ambassador of SodaStream International Ltd., and she's set to appear in an ad for the at-home soda maker during the Super Bowl on Feb. 2.

SodaStream has come under fire from pro-Palestinian activists for maintaining a large factory in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, a territory captured by Israel in 1967 and claimed by the Palestinians.

In response to the criticism,

"It's weird and sucks that I robbed you."

XXL also asked Lamar if he felt the Grammys undervalued hip-hop. Only three rappers—Jay Z, Macklemore and Lewis, and Lamar—performed during the telecast. All three were show highlights for different reasons.

"I definitely feel like they should always have more of the culture up in there, for sure, because we definitely stand out just like any other genre," Lamar said. "We part of the world. We part of the movement. So I think any awards, including the Grammys, should always push for more hip-hop because it's music as a whole, it's not just splitting different regions. Everything moves as far as sound and vibrations, and that's how it goes. And we are a part of that."

Johansson said last week she was a "supporter of economic cooperation and social interaction between a democratic Israel and Palestine."

Oxfam took issue with Johansson, noting it was "considering the implications of her new statement and what it means for Ms. Johansson's role as an Oxfam global ambassador."

Johansson had served as a global ambassador for Oxfam since 2007, raising funds and promoting awareness about global poverty. In her role as an Oxfam ambassador, she traveled to India, Sri Lanka and Kenya to highlight the impact of traumatic disasters and chronic poverty.

Oxfam representatives did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

## Family's ties begin to fray under man's relentless anger

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband is a hard worker, a good provider and a good dad. However, he's angry all the time. It has been this way for as long as I can remember. He is aware of it, and always promises me that when this or that settles down, things will get better, but they never do.

When he sees something on TV or reads something in the paper that upsets him, he can say really vile and violent things. Often when he thinks things the kids and I do are not good enough, he borders on being verbally abusive.

His friends say I'm a "saint" for putting up with him, but lately all I feel is tired out and worn down by it. I have spoken to him about this numerous times, and it improves for a few days, then it starts all over. I'm not sure how much longer I can last.

He reads your column, and I'm hoping he'll see this and realize how bad things really are. I have asked him to go to counseling, but he hasn't been willing. Do you think there's anything I can do besides leaving that will make him see what he is doing to me and the kids?

XREADY TO LEAVE

**DEAR READY TO LEAVE:** Your husband may be a good provider and a hard worker, but I seriously question whether he is as good a dad as you would like to think. Children need their parents' encouragement and approval, as well as their patience and counsel.

When they are given a constant barrage of angry put-downs from a parent, they begin to internalize it. They think such behavior is normal, which means they will repeat it in their relationships when they are older. Or, they may think they deserve to be treated that way and choose mates who treat them like Dad did. Kids with low self-esteem also tend to choose friends who are like themselves, which can cause even more problems.

There is something you can do besides leave right now. Make an appointment for YOURSELF with a licensed psychotherapist and take the children with you. That way, your husband can foot the bill while all of you get your heads straight and you make up your mind if you're serious about leaving. (Alternatively, he can finally admit he needs help with his anger issues and schedule an appointment for himself.)

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm engaged to be married soon, and I'm concerned about a commitment my fiancé, "Jeff," made to his older sister "Beth." Beth is planning on having a child through a sperm donor and has asked Jeff to be a "father figure" once the child is born.

He has doubts about the wisdom of her plan to parent a child alone, but he doesn't want to hurt her feelings and is flattered to have been asked to fulfill such an important task. He agreed to do it without discussing it with me. Beth is very nice, and Jeff's family has embraced me and I don't want to cause trouble.

Jeff and I plan on having several children of our own, and we also plan to move out of state in the next few years. I am wondering how this commitment will affect that possibility.

I am uncomfortable with Jeff making a lifelong commitment to serve as a father figure to another person's child, especially when he hasn't established what it entails. I'm worried that this will cause conflict in our marriage if he goes through with it.

Am I overreacting? I know I need to discuss this with my fiancé. How do you suggest I proceed?

UNSURE IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR UNSURE:** You're not overreacting, and I agree that before this goes any further, you and Jeff need to talk. Open the discussion by telling him that you're not comfortable and why. Suggest he talk to his sister and find out EXACTLY what she meant when she asked him to be a father figure.

He also needs to tell her he may have spoken too soon when he agreed, because he had not first discussed it with you and that the two of you plan to leave the state in the next few years. She needs that important information because it may alter her choice about who should fill that important role.

■■■

**TO MY ASIAN FRIENDS:** Today marks the first day of the Lunar New Year. It's the Year of the Horse. The horse is a symbol of traveling, competition and victory. May it be a winning year!—Love, ABBY



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

2. Where is Plymouth Rock?

I AM NOT PRESENTLY AT LIBERTY TO DIVULGE THAT INFORMATION, AS IT MIGHT COMPROMISE OUR AGENTS IN THE FIELD.

I UNDERSTAND MY TESTS ARE POPULAR READING IN THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE.

WELL, LIZ, I THINK MEN ARE SUPERIOR TO WOMEN

WELL, FOR ONE, WE'RE MORE MATURE

HEY, LEAVE MY BONNY SLIPPERS OUT OF THIS!

WAIT TILL SHE MEETS MR. BLANKEY

Adam@home

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SITTING UNDER THIS FAKE SUNLIGHT LAMP.

HOPEFULLY, THIS IS GONNA SAVE MY SANITY.

TOO LATE.

HAR HAR. DAD THINKS IT'S S.A.D.

SUPER ANNOYING DAUGHTER?

SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER!

DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING.

THERE'S THAT CUTE BICHON FRISE THAT MOVED IN NEXT DOOR!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GO TALK TO HER!

THANKS FOR TELLING ME ABOUT THE TY-D-BOL MUSTACHE

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ump

4 Asian nation

8 Brubeck of jazz

12 Ostrich's cousin

13 Chills and fever

14 Toolbar symbol

15 "Rocky Horror" dance

17 Neuter

18 Had night visions

19 Omega precursor

21 Witness

22 Com-puter use period

26 Compare

29 Firma-ment

30 Pop

31 Beelze-bub's specialty

32 Old French coin

33 Sentence component

34 Four qts.

35 Punctur-ing tool

36 Stage a comeback

37 Prompt

39 Solidify

40 Farrow or Hamm

41 Star-related

45 Preserve

48 Mountain or Pacific

50 Between tasks

51 Huron neighbor

52 Egos' counter-parts

53 Kid's toy

54 Tear

55 Illumi-nated

DOWN

1 Part of AARP

2 Eastern potentate

3 Rant and rave

4 Sheriffs, e.g.

5 Marble type

6 "American Cousin"

7 Samarai ritual

8 Finger or toe

9 Expert

10 Encyc. abbr.

11 Conclu-sion

16 Art sup-porter?

20 Agent

23 Pedestal occupant

24 Crumbly deposit

25 Vortex

26 Toy brick name

27 Terrible guy?

28 What a sporran acce-sorizes

29 Costa del —

32 Trade-mark for Mr. Rogers

33 Stately dance

35 Parisian pal

36 Fix a patchy lawn

38 Urge

39 Street urchin

42 Irritate

43 "The King —"

44 For fear that

45 Tease

46 Tokyo's old name

47 Right angle

49 Anger

Solution time: 25 mins.

GALS EKES BOW

OMEN GIFT OBI

BONAPARTE NIL

ISOPOD ETHEL

PI RADIO

BABY FUR SMOG

AGO APT IVE

DENS LES MEAT

FABLE MA

CIILILI EAGLES

OUR BONVOYAGE

LEE LUBE ANON

ASS FTAL RFST

Yesterday's answer 1-31

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33

34 35 36

37 38 39

40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52

53 54 55

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Mario Williams, 29; Justin Timberlake, 33; Kerry Washington, 37; Portia de Rossi, 41.

Happy Birthday: Unique ideas, coupled with a good plan, will help you get ahead. The changes that go on around you will turn in your favor. Express your thoughts openly, but keep your financial and personal life private. Gauge what will bring you the highest returns and head down the path that shows the most promise. Refrain from making personal changes. Your numbers are 1, 4, 18, 26, 33, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on what you can do to help others, not on trying to impress someone who is negative or only interested on benefiting themselves. Your kindness and generosity will be appreciated and will help you build a strong alliance with someone special. 4 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your imagination and creative input when looking for solutions, and you will hit the jackpot and win favors. Your ability to show professionalism, as well as concern and honesty, will help secure future prospects. Keep your emotions under control. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Consider services you can offer and present what you've got to those willing to pay. Good fortune can be yours if you are passionate about what you do and how you do it. Modernization is your ticket to success. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Position yourself so that you get the chance to view or experience other life choices or ethnic traditions. Travel or research destinations that interest you and you will be able to incorporate what you find into your everyday life. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Offer a deal that is hard to turn down. Talk about a partnership or joint venture that is unique and full of potential. Take action and you will get what you want. If you include individuals from different backgrounds, you will get diverse feedback. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the path that is most unusual. Delve into the unfamiliar and take it upon yourself to discover new possibilities, but don't let someone with far-fetched dreams interfere in a solid plan that promises success. Control will be necessary. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Alter the way or what you do to ensure that you achieve satisfaction and personal happiness. A change in the way you treat someone or the company you keep will bring mixed feelings and responses from friends and family. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let emotions take over when dealing with domestic or household situations. You have to separate your feelings from the reality of whatever changes occur. Use your imagination and you will find alternative means to get what you want. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider your current situation and how well it's working out for you. Question whether you want to continue down the same path or make changes by picking up more skills or education, or moving to a difficult location. Follow your instincts, not someone else. 4 stars

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have plenty of ideas, but not all will be feasible. Consider what's involved and make choices based on reason. Wanting to please someone at the expense of risking your own position or security isn't going to play out well. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Re-evaluate your position and size up the prospects and how you can reach a destination that will bring you greater satisfaction. Use your imagination and you will find a unique way to use your talents to help your community. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen and react quietly. The less people know about what you are doing, the better. You will avoid meddling if you sneak below the radar and put everything in place before presenting or promoting what you have accomplished. Romance is highlighted. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are quick, intuitive and reliable. You are proud and benevolent.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3 4 6

8 9

7 8

4 8 7 1

9 3 2

5 9 2 3

1 5

1 3

7 6 4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3 4 1 7 5 6 2 8 9

7 6 9 3 2 8 4 1 5

8 5 2 1 4 9 7 3 6

4 1 7 2 6 5 8 9 3

2 8 6 9 3 4 5 7 1

9 3 5 8 7 1 6 2 4

5 2 3 4 9 7 1 6 8

6 9 8 5 1 2 3 4 7

1 7 4 6 8 3 9 5 2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/31

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALPHA CENTAURI Solution: 12 letters

N B E K E E R G T P A R S E C

F A C E G A S S E M E B E A

A B A X L E E I C G I A N H S

M Y P O L S B R I G H T E S T

O L S P O I O C E N A S C H R

U O H L N S G L R U O F E L O

S N C A S E K H R B U O A T N

U O R N L E A U T Z R R M N O

R Y U E N L S R Z Y I A I A M

U K X T Z O E Y E P E D X T I

T S O R H A R Y S S S A O X C

C P T O L E M Y H T T H R E A

R I P O L A R A I O E O P S L

A N D U R E T N I O P M A X E

S I R I U S U Y A W Y K L I M

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Amaze, Arcturus, Astronomical, Axle, Babylon, Binary, Brightest, Cen A, Cen B, Centaurus, Closest, Cross, Crux, Exam, Exoplanet, Famous, Four, Fuzzy, Greek, Hadar, Halley, Light Years, Look, Message, Milky Way, Nearest, Parsec, Pointer, Polar, Proxima, Ptolemy, Rigel Kent, Ruler, Sextant, Sirius, Southern, Space, Spin, Spiral, Star, System, Theory, Units

Yesterday's Answer: Protection

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase online at wonderword.universalsclick.com or call 1-800-642-6490. (Contains 100 puzzles.)



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**EMPLOYMENT**

(1) Caregiver - Salary \$5.55p/h. 2 yrs. exp. required. Flexible work hours. Call Patricia Worley at 433-0234.

1-Accountant Bookkeeper/Computer Operator - \$5.55 w/ 6 yrs exp & knowledge in Acctng & Taxes. Japanese Foods import/export docs related. Mail resume to SPE Saipan Box 502696 Saipan MP 96950.

Wanted: Foreign Workers or Locals. Engineering firm seeks entry level Autocad Technicians and Engineers. Employer willing to train. Please email resume to akennedy@zoneengineering.com.

1 Farmer/Aquaculture - 2 years experience preferred. Please call 989-1170 or submit resume to Matsumoto Trust at P.O. Box 5057 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950.

**LOOKING FOR GIRLFRIEND**

American Gentleman wants girlfriend, dine, travel, enjoy life with a Nice man, Call 287-5522.

**Vacancy Announcement**

(1) Electrician - Atleast 5 yrs. experience as Electrician. Proficient on layout & installation of electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures.

Submit Applications To:  
Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC. Tel.# 235-1680

**Tun Goru Snack Bar**  
has an opening for

(1) **Salesperson** - Part Time Only  
Must be fluent in reading, writing, and speaking English. Must have good mathematical skills. Must have previous exp. of at least 3 yrs. Must be willing to report to work at 5:30 a.m. on weekdays and work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Salary \$5.55 p/hr.

Interested applicants, please send Resume to:  
Tun Goru Snack Bar, P.O. Box 5527 Saipan, MP 96950  
**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(2) **Store & Laundry worker**  
Salary: \$5.55/hr. Work schedule: Flexible. Helping customers with drop-off services; folding clothes and cleaning laundry machines; cleaning store and items; stock goods in store. Experience in store or laundry and police clearance are required.

If interested, bring resume to Family Market in Susupe

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1 1/2 BR House, furnished, quiet place w/ nice yard-\$450 OBO  
1 Bedroom concrete apartment, furnished-\$350 OBO  
Studio-type apartment, furnished, nice & quiet place-\$250 OBO  
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Must see to appreciate.  
PKCL ENTERPRISES, P.O. BOX 5001957, SAIPAN MP 96950  
Email: petelucy79@gmail.com

**PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING**  
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) **General Maintenance**  
-must have 7 years experience.

Please send resume to PO Box 502670  
Koblerville, Saipan MP, 96950

**4BR HOUSE FOR RENT**  
(Partially Furnished)  
\$900, Papago,  
near Botanical Garden  
Call: 285-1509  
Email: saipanorchid@gmail.com

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**1-Teppanyaki Cook**

Minimum of 5 years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Apply at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.  
Position closes 5p.m., Feb. 6, 2014.

**American K&W Corporation**  
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950  
**Job Vacancy Announcement**

(1) **Waitress**  
Salary \$5.55 p/h.  
Min. 2 yrs exp. Japanese speaking a plus

(1) **Maintenance Building Repairer**  
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 3 - 5 yrs exp.

If interested, email thomastchong@gmail.com

**LFP Corp. dba Marg's Kitchen**  
has an opening for

(1) **Baker** - Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years. Must be willing to work from 3:00 a.m. Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants please send your resume to:  
LFP Corp. dba Marg's Kitchen P.O. Box 5527, CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950  
**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**Fina Sisu Terraces**  
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**  
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

**Ocean View Terraces**  
(Navy Hill)  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.  
**\$600/month**

**Sunset View Terraces**  
(Navy Hill)  
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.  
**\$550/month**

**FEATURES:**

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- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com)  
Call for an appointment  
**235-6527/8 or 285-1317.**

**Warehouse for RENT**

**REM GUALO RAI**  
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft  
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

**REM LOWERBASE**  
Warehouse #4 - Size: 9,000sq/ft  
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft  
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

**Car for Sale- Give Away Price**

Leaving island for Europe. 1995 Daihatsu Charade 3 doors automatic, insurance paid up to May 2014. Nice looking and good driving little car. Low in gas. New Tires - New Mufle - New Brakes - Overhauled Engine & New Battery. Papers to show - \$1800 cost  
Price \$1750 Sharp  
Call 285-7731/ John for test drive  
Car is to see on Beach Road, Oleai Beach.  
Next to Shoe Depot Roshis, Atoms Apartment 103. John

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PARTS SALES PERSON (1)**

- Minimum of 5 years experience
- Expertise in commercial vehicle and heavy equipment parts

APPLY IN PERSON & BRING RESUME  
No phone call please.

**MARIANAS EXCHANGE, INC.**  
Saipan Plaza Building  
Middle Road, Gualo Rai

**Vacancy Announcement**

(1) **Accounting Clerk** - Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.

(2) **Maintenance** - Atleast high school graduate. A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form.

(1) **Auto Mechanic** - Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) **Trash Collector** - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:  
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

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**TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.**

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**NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER WORKER**

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- Salary negotiable based on experience

**Minimum Qualification Requirements:**

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- Police or Court Clearance
- References
- Must be experienced Driver w/ valid Driver's License

Drop off your resume at the  
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**Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa**

May submit resume at the  
**corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com**  
**We accept applications up to January 31, 2014**  
**NO PHONE CALL PLEASE**

**Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.**

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**Samsung, Philips, Vizio...etc**

Call for more information  
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9:00am - 7:00pm  
[www.calvatron.net](http://www.calvatron.net)

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# Thunder erase early 18-point hole, top Heat, 112-95



**MIAMI (AP)**—Down by 18 points midway through the opening quarter, Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder looked well on their way to witnessing a rout.

That's exactly what happened.

And they enjoyed every moment.

Durant remained sizzling with 33 points, Serge Ibaka added 22 and the Thunder roared back from an abysmal start—they trailed 22-4 early—to embarrass the Miami Heat 112-95 on Wednesday night, erasing that big deficit out of the gate by outscoring the two-time defending champions by 43 points over a 33-minute span.

"They were ready for us to come in and play," Durant said. "They hit some tough shots early on, a few 3's, and we didn't panic. We just tried to stay together and that's what we did. Our bench was great in getting us back in that game."

The Thunder led by as many as 25, and shot 16 for 27 from 3-point range. Miami was 3 for 19 from beyond the arc.

Durant has now scored at least 30 points in 12 straight games, matching the league's longest such streak since Tracy McGrady did it in 14 consecutive outings in the 2002-03 season. The Thunder extended their winning streak to nine, inching them closer to Indiana in the race for the league's best record. And the Oklahoma City bench outscored Miami's reserves 39-21, with Jeremy Lamb scoring 18 and Derek Fisher going 5 for 5 from 3-point range for his 15 points.

"There's no running away from it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Other than the first eight minutes of the game they outclassed us tonight. They absolutely deserved this win."

LeBron James scored 34 points for Miami, his 1-on-1 duel with Durant not really amounting to much on a night where the Heat allowed 25 points off turnovers and blew an 18-point lead for just the fourth time since he, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh became teammates nearly four years ago.

Bosh scored 18 points and Wade added 15 for Miami.

"We played well to start the game," James said. "We played well all the way until like the second quarter. From that point on they did what they want to do."

Much of the buzz going into the night was about the MVP race, and how this might be the season that Durant finally catches James for the league's top individual award.

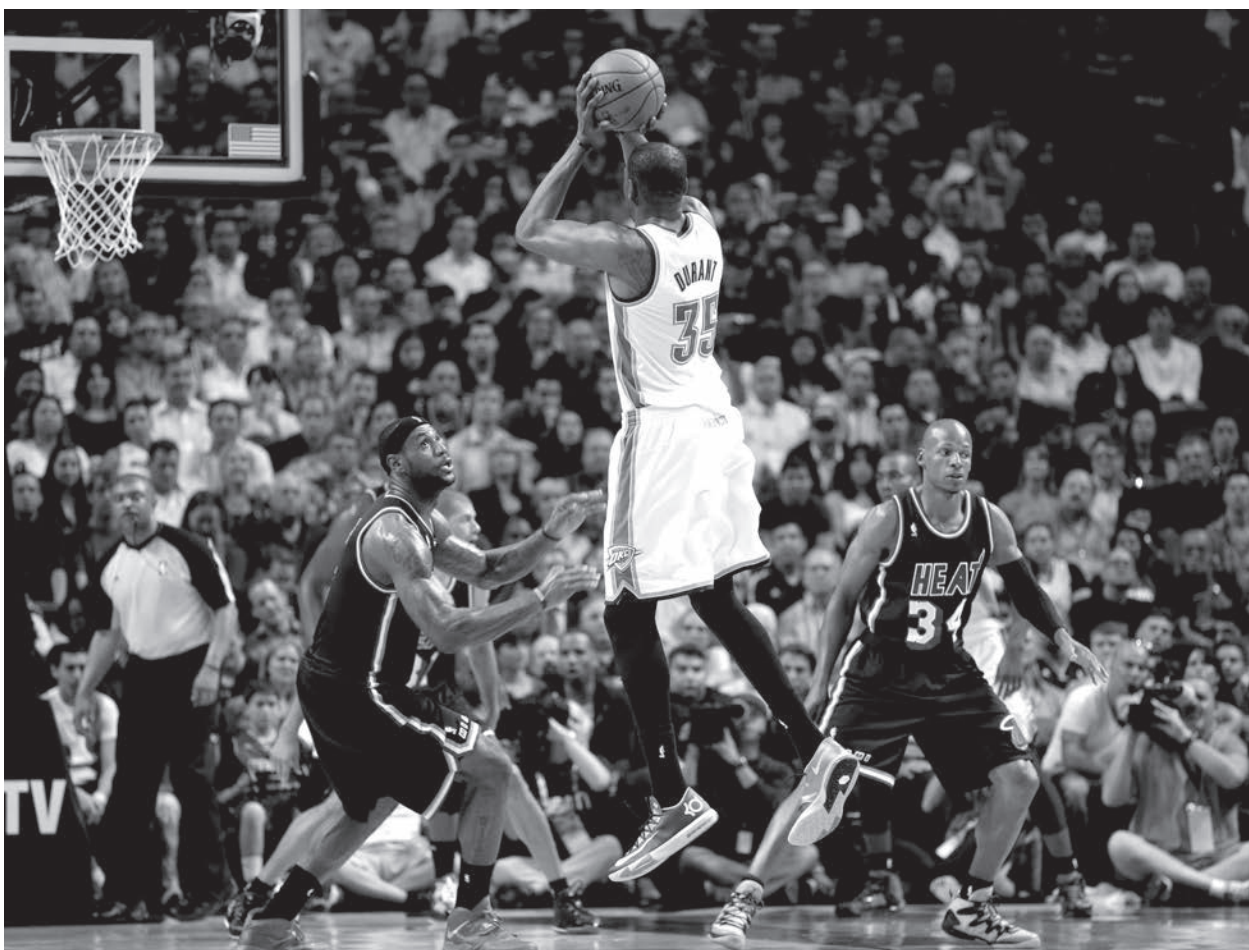
Head-to-head, they weren't separated by much. But for just the fourth time in 17 meetings between their teams, Durant came out on top.

"It would have been fun to clear the court and watch them go 1-on-1," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

Ibaka opened the scoring with a jumper, and the Heat answered with an immediate 18-0 run, not even needing 5 minutes to get what appeared to be complete control. With 6:20 left in the opening quarter, Bosh made a pair of free throws to make it 22-4.

That pretty much ended the Heat highlights for the evening.

By the end of the first, the Thunder were within nine. Lamb scored 13 in the second quarter alone, helping Oklahoma City take a 55-50 lead into the



Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots against Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) and guard Ray Allen (34) during the second period of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014.

## Pistons-Hawks game postponed by winter storm

**ATLANTA (AP)**—The Detroit Pistons' game at the Atlanta Hawks scheduled for Wednesday night has been postponed due to the winter

storm which has made travel unsafe in Atlanta.

The Pistons were unable to make their scheduled flight into Atlanta

on Tuesday night from Detroit.

The game will be rescheduled but no date was immediately announced.

break, with the Thunder already having scored 19 points off turnovers.

The third quarter, Durant and the Thunder put it away.

Durant and James seemed to be playing a little game of "Can you top this?" in that period, both finishing with 12 points in the 12 minutes. The difference was, Durant was getting plenty of help, and James wasn't getting much.

"Rucker Park, that's what was going through my head," Durant said, referring to the New York basketball landmark where he scored 66 points in a game during the summer of 2011. "It was fun. ... I'm sure the fans got what they wanted to see with that one."

Said James: "It's fun competition. It's been a while since I was able to do something like that."

Fisher connected on a 3-pointer to end the quarter, pushing Oklahoma City's margin to 16, and the Heat had no answers in the fourth.

"We have some work to do," Spoelstra said. "We're like everybody else in the league. Nobody is infallible. We have some things to improve on. We know the things we have to improve on. We're not there yet."

### 76ers 95, Celtics 94

In Boston, Evan Turner sank a layup at the buzzer to lift Philadelphia past Boston.

The 76ers rebounded the ball after Kris Humphries missed a jumper with 12 seconds left. They hurried upcourt and Turner released his shot just in time to give the 76ers only their third win in 13 games.

The Celtics lost for the 19th time in 22 games and dropped behind the 76ers

in the standings by one game.

Spencer Hawes led Philadelphia with 20 points and tied his career high with four 3-pointers. Turner had 16 points and eight assists and Thaddeus Young added 16 points.

Jared Sullinger led Boston with 24 points and 17 rebounds and Jeff Green had 18 points, but just five after the first quarter.

### Suns 126, Bucks 117

In Milwaukee, Goran Dragic scored 30 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter despite sustaining an apparent injury to his left elbow, as Phoenix beat Milwaukee.

Gerald Green scored 23 and Marcus Morris had 16 points off the bench for the Suns, who have won the first three games of a four-game road trip.

Dragic hit the floor hard after a late foul by Larry Sanders, but was able to stay in the game—and keep scoring. But he was on the bench with a wrap on his left elbow in the closing minutes, and was escorted to the locker room with 52 seconds remaining.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 27 points and Brandon Knight added 24 for the Bucks, who have only one win in January.

### Timberwolves 88, Pelicans 77

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 30 points and 14 rebounds to finally carry Minnesota over the .500 mark for the season.

Kevin Martin added 18 points on 7-of-18 shooting and six boards for the Timberwolves in their first game without center Nikola Pekovic, who is expected to miss at least a week with bursitis in his right ankle. They still

managed to get over .500 after failing in their previous 10 chances to do so.

Al-Farouq Aminu had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans, who were missing star forward Anthony Davis with a dislocated left index finger. They shot just 35 percent and managed a season-low 35 points in the first half to snap a three-game winning streak.

### Raptors 98, Magic 83

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry had a season-high 33 points and 11 assists, and Amir Johnson had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead Toronto past Orlando for the fifth straight time.

Jonas Valanciunas had 14 points and 15 rebounds and Terrence Ross scored 12 as the Raptors, who never trailed, won for the fourth time in five games.

Lowry, who had seven rebounds, matched his season best with six 3-pointers. He came within three points of matching his career-high of 36, set Feb. 16, 2011, against Philadelphia, when he played for Houston.

Lowry also topped 30 points in back-to-back games for the first time.

### Rockets 117, Mavericks 115

In Dallas, Chandler Parsons scored 26 points as Houston beat a Texas rival for the second straight day without James Harden.

Seven Rockets players scored in double figures on a night when they had just 10 players in uniform. Dwight Howard had 21 points, and Jeremy Lin had 18 and seven assists.

The Mavericks cut a 12-point deficit with 4:08 remaining to just two and had a chance to win, but Jose Calderon missed a pair of 3-point

tries in the final seconds.

Dirk Nowitzki had 38 points and a season-high 17 rebounds, but was the only Dallas starter in double figures.

### Bobcats 101, Nuggets 98

In Denver, Al Jefferson matched a season high with 35 points, including a key basket in the final seconds, to lead Charlotte.

Jefferson, who has scored 20 points or more in 10 straight games, also had 11 rebounds for his 14th double-double in his last 22 games.

Gerald Henderson and Ramon Sessions each added 16 points for the Bobcats who beat the Nuggets in Denver for only the second time in eight games here.

Randy Foye scored 33 points to lead Denver, which was without leading scorer Ty Lawson (left shoulder). His replacement, Nate Robinson, was knocked out of the game in the first quarter with a left knee sprain.

### Bulls 96, Spurs 86

In San Antonio, Jimmy Butler had 19 points and Carlos Boozer added 16 points and 12 rebounds as Chicago handed injury-riddled San Antonio its third straight loss.

D.J. Augustin and Taj Gibson added 15 points each and Joakim Noah had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago.

Tony Parker had 20 points and Tim Duncan had 17 points and 12 rebounds for San Antonio, which hadn't lost back-to-back games until this current skid.

The Spurs were without Manu Ginobili, Kawhi Leonard, Danny Green and Tiago Splitter. It led to a disjointed and inconsistent offense for San Antonio.

### Grizzlies 99, Kings 89

In Sacramento, California, Mike Conley had 27 points and 10 assists as Memphis won its fourth straight.

The Grizzlies took the lead for good in the third quarter and never trailed again in winning for the ninth time in 10 games. They were coming off an impressive 98-81 victory Tuesday night in Portland where they held the NBA's highest scoring team to 34.5 percent shooting.

Isaiah Thomas scored 24 points and Rudy Gay had 23 for the Kings, who have lost five straight and seven of eight.

DeMarcus Cousins, the Kings' leading scorer and rebounder, missed his fourth straight game with an ankle sprain.

### Clippers 110, Wizards 103

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin led five players in double figures with 29 points as Los Angeles won its fourth straight.

Back home for the first time after going 5-2 on their Grammy road trip, the Clippers improved to 19-3 at Staples Center this season.

Jamal Crawford added 21 points, including two 3-pointers from 29 and 33 feet, and DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Clippers, who beat the Wizards for the sixth straight time at home. Darren Collison scored 16 points to help the team improve to 11-3 without the injured Chris Paul.

Bradley Beal scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth, and John Wall had 19 points and 11 assists for Washington.



# Even if no snow, players prep for cold Super Bowl



**JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)**—So much for all the hand-wringing about a snowed-in Super Bowl.

How would freezing spectators deal with the cold at MetLife Stadium?

What sort of havoc would a big storm wreak on transportation and other game-day logistics?

What if the NFL decided to postpone its championship game between the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks for 24 hours?

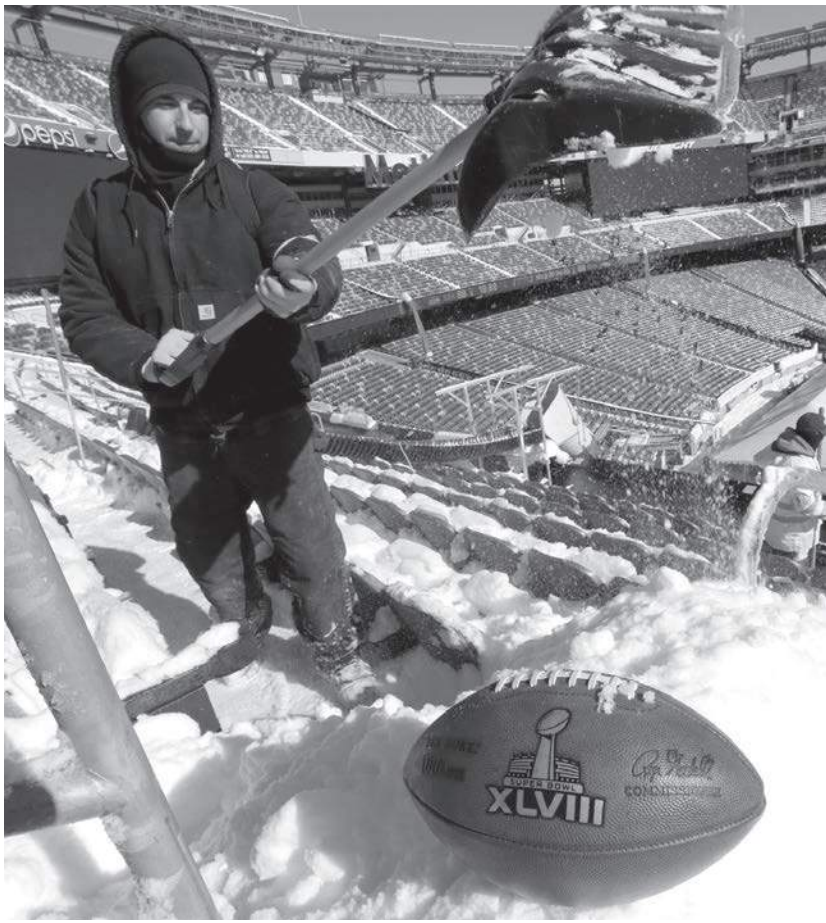
If the National Weather Service's forecast is correct, the buzz about a blizzard at the first cold-weather, outdoor Super Bowl—the official host committee logo features a snowflake—will turn out to be just talk. As of Wednesday, no snow, or even rain, was being predicted for Sunday.

"It would have been cool in the snow," Seattle linebacker Heath Farwell said. "That's, I guess, how football's supposed to be played."

Players on both teams have experienced chilly conditions during games, of course, although they don't regularly brace for the sort of brrrr that's anticipated for this Super Bowl, even if there isn't any snow. Sunday's high temperature is expected to be 38 degrees, which would make it the coldest of the 48 Super Bowls so far.

With the opening kickoff scheduled for about 6:30 p.m., the mercury could drop into the 20s by the time the game ends.

The only time the temperature dropped below 40 degrees for a Super Bowl came



A football with the Super Bowl XLVIII logo is set on a mound of snow for an NFL photographer to make photos of it as workers shovel snow off the seating area at MetLife Stadium as crews removed snow ahead of Super Bowl XLVIII following a snow storm, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

when it was 39 in New Orleans in January 1972. The Dallas Cowboys beat the Miami Dolphins 24-3 in that game, and Miami's scoring output remains the lowest for one team in a Super Bowl.

"I was expecting unbearable cold," Broncos safety Duke Ihenacho said,

looking ahead to Sunday. "It'll be cold, but it's nothing we haven't seen in Denver."

Similar to the setup for cold-site games during the regular season, there will be 70 feet worth of heated benches on each sideline, half for the offense,

half for the defense, according to the NFL. (Attention, kickers: The league did not mention special teams.)

The benches can reach a temperature that is 90 degrees warmer than the air; each club gets to decide how hot it wants to make them, the league said. The seats generate heat in the area surrounding the benches, so even standing nearby can help fight the freeze.

There also will be "heated torpedo fans" on each sideline.

Football uniforms have short sleeves, and only one of the 15 players interviewed for this story, Seattle defensive end Cliff Avril, said he would even consider wearing long sleeves underneath to provide some protection Sunday.

"I'm a 315-pound man. The weather doesn't bother me," Broncos defensive tackle Sylvester Williams said, by way of explaining why he'd never go for the long-sleeved look.

Instead, players did offer up various other options for finding warmth.

The remedies range from common-sense solutions for when the temperature plunges, such as wearing extra-thick jackets or gloves on the sideline, to more far-flung options such as spraying antiperspirant on feet to keep them dry and prevent sweat from freezing. Even more far-flung: Seattle's Harwell said he's heard of players putting cayenne pepper and baby powder on their feet.

Many players said they will use some combination of Vaseline and a product called Warm Skin, described on the company's website as "a unique barrier cream that soothes and protects your skin," to seal up pores and act as insulation.

"At first, I didn't think it would work, but I was surprised that it really protected me from the elements, especially from the wind and everything. I felt good. I felt warm," said Denver defensive tackle Sione Fua, who sported a thick gray hoodie under his orange jersey at his team's interview session Wednesday, when the high was 25. "It rubs in pretty good, so it's not like your skin's slick. The referees check for that, anyway, so if you're too slick, they tell you to wipe down."

Broncos safety David Bruton said he started using creams on his arms before playing in the cold during high school in Miamisburg, Ohio.

"My Dad suggested it. He was a truck driver, and sometimes he'd have to hook the trailer up when it was blistering cold, like when he would go to New York in the winter," Bruton recalled. "He would have thick gloves and Vaseline on."

No matter how they try to weather Sunday's weather, players doubt the conditions—whatever they turn out to be—will influence the game's outcome.

"Both teams are going to be prepared, and they won't really care about it," Bruton said. "Hey, it's the Super Bowl. Who's going to care about the weather? And no one is ever going to say, 'Such-and-such won, and it was negative-2 degrees at the end of the game.'"

Maybe so.

But at least one player is holding out hope for a few flakes.

"I really got excited about the Super Bowl," Broncos kick returner Trindon Holliday said, "thinking it was going to have some snow."

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# Asian Cup expansion sparks debate

By JOHN DUERDEN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A proposal to expand the Asian Cup to 24 teams has sparked a debate among the region’s football bodies, with commercial and developmental considerations on one side, and on the other a fear that it will dilute the quality of the competition.

The Asian Football Confederation’s Competitions Committee recommended on the weekend that the quadrennial tournament be expanded from 16 to 24 teams.

Advocates say it will increase

the likelihood that big commercial markets like China, India and Southeast Asian nations would be involved in the tournament, while also fast-tracking the development of smaller nations by exposing them to higher-quality opponents.

If China loses in February to Iraq in the final round of qualification for the 2015 Asian Cup, and with India already eliminated, then the Australia-hosted tournament would be without representation from the two most populous countries in the world and probably Southeast Asia too—with

a shared population of around three billion.

“In the end, all will benefit in terms of tournament profile and exposure and it will also provide significant commercial benefits that will help Asia as a whole,” said Philippines Football Federation president Mariano Nonong Araneta.

The more powerful nations of Asia are concerned it will damage their teams’ development to play against minnow nations, and harm the Asian Cup’s image as an elite competition.

“The standards at the Asian Cup have improved in recent times and if Asian teams are to compete at the world level then it is important for everyone that it continues to improve,” said Park Yong-soo, the head of the Korea Football Association’s International Department.

“Having more teams is likely to reduce the overall quality. While we recognize that we have a duty to help the smaller nations develop, we need more time to discuss the issue.”

According to the Philippines chief, the drop in quality

will not be as severe as some may fear.

“We and other teams in Asia are catching up with the traditional powers such as Japan, Korea and Iran,” said Nonong. “These teams need the chance to show what they can do and a bigger Asian Cup would be a great chance to do so.”

For the smaller nations, a short-term drop in standard is a price worth paying.

Guam has been one of the fastest-improving teams in Asia in recent years. The tiny Pacific island nation has climbed from

201st in FIFA rankings in 2004 to its present standing of 162 and within sight of the continent’s top-ranked 24 teams..

Gary White, the national team’s English coach, has been at the helm for two years and believes that competing in the Asian Cup would help the national team go to the next level.

“Expansion would be a positive move from our standpoint as we are extremely aggressive in regards to being competitive,” White said. “We believe we would claim one of the extra spots into future tournaments.”

## Belau masters softball starts Feb. 16

The Belau Amateur Softball Association will open of the Belau Men’s Masters Softball League for 2014.

Scheduled start date is set for Feb. 16, 2014 and the entrance fee is \$400 per team.

All games will be played at the Dandan Softball field every Sunday. If you have any questions, email Newman Techur at nenn2ur@gmail.com or call Brian Adelbai at 287-1963. (PR)



## ROLLERS

From Page 36

Players got confused at this juncture with Montes pulling up for an open trey, as Rollers 1 stopped playing defense. Montes missed, but Francisco got the rebound and made the putback, which was eventually nullified due to the earlier confusion created by FTMP’s attempt to call a time out.

When Francisco hit the undergoal shot that would have sliced Rollers 1’s lead to 1, 71-

70, there were only 3.3 seconds left in the match. However, the clock was reset to eight seconds after the referees stopped the play and handed possession to FTMP, which was forced to go for a triple to send the game in overtime.

Kautong attempted the game-tying triple from the left key off a jump pass from Montes and had a good line, but the shot rimmed out. Jasper Alcantara went for putback, but missed, while Lampkin also tried to tap the ball in twice, but faltered as time ex-

pired, securing Rollers 1’s stint to the finals against Rollers 2.

Rollers 2 eased past Rollers 3, 73-63, in the other semis match to nail the first finals ticket.

The trio of Kobe Mendoza, Jun Fidelino, and Mike Espinosa did the damage for Rollers 2, as they combined for more than half of the team’s output. Mendoza fired 22 points, Fidelino chipped in 17, and Espinosa added 17.

Christian Morales led Rollers 2 with his 25 markers. He hit back-to-back baskets to end the first half and give Rollers 1 a

precarious 1-point lead, 36-35. Morales continued his show in the second half and drew limited support from his teammates, while Mendoza and company split the pie en route to the 10-point win.

Meanwhile, Rollers 2 and Rollers 1’s winner-take-all finale will be played tomorrow at 6pm.

### First Game

**Rollers 2 73** – Mendoza 22, Fidelino 17, Espinosa 13, Capuyon 7, Cenir 6, Darag 4, Vivero 2.

**Rollers 3 63** – Morales 25, Francisco 15, De Luna 9, Cruz 7, Rios 5.

**Scoring by halves:** 35-36, 73-63.

### Second Game

**Rollers 1 71** – Arciaga 19, Factor 10, Malonzo 10, Ano 8, Iglecias 7, Pangelinan 6, Omori 2.

**FTMP 68** – A. Francisco 18, Montes 18, Lampkin 13, Omengkar 11, Alcantara 8.

**Scoring by halves:** 48-27, 71-68.



Only the first 50 bowlers to

register will be allowed to play in each day of the tournament.

Cash prizes will be given away in the men’s division and the amount will depend on the number of entries. The women’s division will have cash prizes provided there are 10 entries

## SOUTHERN

From Page 36

foul line, but Mt. Carmel got the offensive rebound for another opportunity to map out a play. However, the Knights bungled the chance anew when William Camacho’s entry pass to Ju Won Jung was intercepted by the Rays, who pushed the ball and went to Daniel Camacho on the baseline. Daniel Camacho was fouled and had a split to put Southern on top, 67-66, with 45.7 seconds left in the game.

Daniel Camacho muffed his second charity, keeping the Knights’ hopes alive, but Mount Carmel turned the ball over anew when Jared Sablan’s pass to a cutting Enrico Del Rosario on the left wing was way too short and was picked up by Feria. The Knights then gave up a

quick foul, sending Feria to the line anew for a pair, 35.3 ticks to go. Again, Feria had a split, but after missing his second free throw, Daniel Camacho grabbed the rebound and made the putback, upping the Rays lead to 4 points, 70-66, 32.8 seconds left in the match.

The Knights sued for time, but when the game resumed it failed to cash in on its attempt with William Camacho driving from the right wing and missing his shot and also the two free throws he earned for getting a foul on James Kintaro. Southern controlled the rebound after the back-to-back misses and Feria this time went 2-for-2 from the stripe after getting another foul from Mount Carmel to seal the win.

Southern managed to steal the win despite wasting an 8-point

lead, 57-49, early in the fourth quarter and after coming back from a 4-point deficit in the last two minutes of the match. The Rays lost the driver’s seat, 59-57, when William Camacho anchored a 10-0 run capped by his triple. Alfonso Evangelista made it a 4-point lead when he canned a short jumper, but Southern bounced back behind the successive baskets of Feria.

Feria scored 7 straight points past the halfway mark of the fourth canto, as he and Daniel Camacho dominated the paint after the Knights lost their frontliners due to five fouls. Soon Kwon fouled out with still five minutes left on the clock and left the game with 8 points, while Min Su Kim followed him two minutes later after chipping in 13.

Meanwhile, in the varsity

division, Saipan International School barged into the win column after outclassing Southern, 44-39.

The Geckos snapped their three-game losing skid, while the Rays dropped to a 0-3 record.

Christopher Cepeda towed SIS to its first win after drilling a game-high 24 points. His three free throws in the closing seconds of the match helped ice it for SIS.

Cepeda also had a strong start, logging 9 points, as the Geckos took a 16-11 lead after the first quarter. He was scoreless in the second, as SIS was held to 3 points, allowing Southern to steal the lead, 20-19. However, the Geckos regained the upper hand, 31-28, when Cepeda came back in the third, scoring 10 of their 12 markers. He then

started the fourth with a field goal and drew some help from his teammates to keep SIS’ safe distance against Southern.

### Junior Varsity

**SIS 44** – C. Cepeda 24, Y. Kim 7, Johnson 6, J. Kim 4, H. Kim 3, Ramsey 2.

**SSHS 39** – Taitano 14, Anderson 7, Warren 5, Bondoc 3, Wong 2, Espinosa 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-11, 19-20, 31-28, 44-39.

### Varsity

**SSHS 72** – Feria 31, Javier 14, Palacios 12, Camacho 8, Borromeo 3, Kintaro 3, Raquera 2, Reyes 2.

**MCS 66** – Camacho 17, Sablan 15, Kim 13, Kwon 8, Evangelista 6, Amog 5, Del Rosario 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 11-22, 30-33, 45-41, 72-66.

In other results, SIS bounced back from a loss to MHS with a 25-15, 25-11, 15-9 triumph over sister squad SIS JV, while GCA extended its streak to three after beating Southern. The Eagles coasted to a 25-12 win in the opening set before pulling off a 25-19 victory in the second for the early win. The defending champions went on to shut out Southern with a 15-10 triumph in the third and last set.

## MHS

From Page 36

the first two sets, both games were close ones with the former prevailing by only five points in the first set, 25-20, and two in the second 25-23. The Lady Geckos avoided a shutout after taking the third set, 15-10.

In other results in the Jan. 23 games, Grace Christian Academy (3-1), Mt. Carmel, and Saipan Southern High School

(2-3) topped separate foes.

In the first game on the northern court, the defending champions Lady Eagles bagged their second win in the season after dominating Kagman High School Junior Varsity (0-5), 25-7, 25-12, 15-7. On the southern end, the Lady Knights took their third win after a similar three-set victory over SIS JV (1-3), 25-18, 25-15, 15-11.

For the second match on the

north court, Southern had to labor through a 2-1 triumph over Kagman Varsity (0-4). The Lady Rays pulled off a 25-20 victory in the opening set, but failed to nail the outright win when the Lady Ayuyus stole the second set, 25-13. Then the deciding third set was a neck-and-neck battle with Southern escaping with a 16-14 triumph.

Action in the double-elimination competition continued

last Tuesday with league-leading MHS handing Mt. Carmel its first loss of the season. The Lady Dolphins booked the automatic victory after prevailing in the first two sets, 25-10, 25-16, and completed the sweep with a 15-13 win in the third set.

It was a double celebration for MHS, as its junior varsity team also downed Kagman JV, 25-19, 25-10, 4-15 to improve to an even 2-2 slate.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	21	.533	–
Brooklyn	20	23	.465	3
New York	18	27	.400	6
Philadelphia	15	31	.326	9½
Boston	15	33	.313	10½

#### Southeast Division

Miami	32	13	.711	–
Atlanta	23	21	.523	8½
Washington	22	23	.489	10
Charlotte	20	27	.426	13
Orlando	12	35	.255	21

#### Central Division

Indiana	35	9	.795	–
Chicago	23	22	.511	12½
Detroit	18	27	.400	17½
Cleveland	16	29	.356	19½
Milwaukee	8	37	.178	27½

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	33	13	.717	–
Houston	31	17	.646	3
Dallas	26	21	.553	7½
Memphis	24	20	.545	8
New Orleans	19	26	.422	13½

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	37	10	.787	–
Portland	33	13	.717	3½
Minnesota	23	22	.511	13
Denver	22	22	.500	13½
Utah	16	29	.356	20

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	33	15	.688	–
Phoenix	27	18	.600	4½
Golden State	27	19	.587	5
L.A. Lakers	16	30	.348	16
Sacramento	15	30	.333	16½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Tammy triumphs in virtual swim meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Eleven-year-old Miku Tammy shone the brightest in the third virtual meet between Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Tsunami Guam last Saturday.

Tammy topped both the girls 11 to 12's 50m freestyle and 200m freestyle races, blowing out her competitor. She clocked in at 31.28 seconds in the 50m



freestyle and the time was faster than the CNMI age group mark (33.50 seconds), which she incidentally holds and made on May 25, 2013 during a tournament in Guam. Tammy's time in last Saturday afternoon's event at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool could not be considered a record since it was earned in a virtual meet and was not sanctioned under the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation.

Fifteen other swimmers joined the 50m freestyle race in the girls 11 to 12 age group

and Tammy finished ahead of the next four Tsunami Guam finishers. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer won over Samantha Hon (33.36 seconds), Leilani Koiwa (33.91 seconds), Reina Ross (33.98 seconds), and Kylie Miller (34.69 seconds). Tsunami Guam swimmers' time in the Guam Swimming Federation meet held last Saturday morning at the Hagatna Swimming Pool were considered for the third virtual meet between the two clubs.

In the 200m freestyle event, Tammy completed the race in 2:34.96, around 13 seconds faster than Hon, which submitted 2:47.63. Eleven others joined the event and only four finished the race under three minutes.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said out of the 20 races in the virtual meet, Tsunami Saipan swimmers finished first in 14 with the club's U8 team dominating Tsunami Guam.

In the girls U8's 200m freestyle, Tsunami Saipan took



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy joins the challenge 50m butterfly race in last Saturday's virtual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

the Top 4 finish with Nanaka Watanabe at first place with her 3:26.40, followed by Ashley Dangol (3:36.85), Natsuki Nagata (3:59.21), and Kana

Suzuki (4:20.66). In the boys U8 division, Anthony Camacho Deleon Guerrero was the fastest with his 3:27.37, beating Tsunami Saipan teammate Hans

Xu (3:30.42).

In the girls 9 to 10, Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran (2:54.12) and Aika Watanabe (3:15.87) defeated Tsunami Guam swimmers, while in the boys division, Kimura's wards claimed the Top 3 finish. Ryu-tan Yanai won the event with his 2:31.46, ahead of brother Ken-shiro Yanai (2:53.50) and Juhn Tenorio (3:00.79).

In the boys 11 to 12, Tsunami Guam's Jimi Hendrix denied Tsunami Saipan's bid for a sweep as his 2:25.39 edged the 2:40.57 of Mark Maestro.

In the 13 to 14 age group, Tsunami Saipan was back on top with Angel Marie Tan and Kaito Yanai prevailing against their rivals from Tsunami Guam. Tan logged 2:29.52 to

beat Hanna White (2:34.84), while Kaito Yanai tallied 2:14.93 to win against Kai Aricayos (2:24.81).

Tsunami Guam got the elusive sweep in the over 15 division with Misaki Iijima recording 2:16.77 and Jagger Stephens registering 2:02.74. Iijima and Stephens also won the 50m freestyle event after logging 28.60 seconds and 24.82 seconds, respectively.

Duplicating the Tsunami Guam swimmers' feat were Tan and Kaito Yanao, who posted 30.98 seconds and 28.37 seconds, to rule the sprint event.

In the 11 to 12 age group, Hendrix shared the top honors anew with Tammy, as the former clocked in at 33.03 seconds to beat seven others in the 50m freestyle race.

In the girls 9 to 10, Gauran (35.30 seconds) led the podium and was joined in the Top 3 by Tsunami Saipan teammate Aika Watanabe (40.04 seconds) and Tsunami Guam's Esabelle Eldridge (45.32 seconds). In the 18-field boys division, Tsunami Saipan occupied the Top 3 spots with Ryuto Yanai (31.28 seconds) on top, followed by Ken-shiro Yanai (36.39 seconds) and Tenorio (37.43 seconds).

Tsunami Saipan had another sweep in the U8 age group with Deleon Guerrero (42.69 seconds) winning the boys division against 13 other swimmers and Nanaka Watanabe (43.04 seconds) defeating nine swimmers in the girls race.

Besides the 50m and 200m freestyle, Tsunami Saipan also held challenge races last Saturday with 11 swimmers joining the 50m butterfly, breaststroke, and backstroke events.

## Teack tops SGA Ace of Aces



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Golfers Association 2014 Ace of Aces champion Jung Eun Teack poses with the club's board of directors during their awards banquet last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Jung Eun Teack won the Saipan Golfers Association's 2013 Ace of Aces Tournament held last Dec. 14 and 15 at the Kingfisher Golf Links and Marianas Country Club, respectively.

Teack shot a 73 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Day 1 of the season-ending championship before carding a 69 in Day 2 to finish with a weekend best 142 net score.

Coming in second to Teack in the Ace of Aces was former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan who had a two-day net total of 146 after shooting a 74 and 72 in Day 1 and Day 2 of the tournament, respectively.

Steve Balakrishna rounded out the Top 3 with his 148 net

built around a 73 on Saturday and a 75 on Sunday.

Juan L. Babauta and Rick Kautz complete the Top 5 with their net 153 and 157, respectively. The former shot a 75 and 78, while the latter fired an 81 and 76.

Tied for sixth place were Greg Sablan Jr. and John "Nonni" Cruz. Both had a total net score of 159. The scorecard tiebreaker method was used placing Sablan fifth and Cruz sixth. Sablan's net scores were 83 and 76. While Cruz's were 76 and 83.

Teack and company was feted during SGA's season-ending Ace of Aces Tournament

awards banquet held last Jan. 26 at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Other winners recognized at the awards banquet were closest-to-the-pin winners at Kingfisher Golf Links: Steve Balakrishna (hole No. 6); John "Nonni" Cruz (hole No. 12); and Juan L. Babauta (hole No. 15).

Longest drives winners at the same venue were also recognizes and they were Ed Manibusan (hole No. 7) and Rick Kautz (hole No. 11).

The closest-to-the-pin winners at Marianas Country Club were Balakrishna (hole No. 6), Kautz (hole No. 12), and James

Whang (hole No. 16), while longest drives at the same venue were Babauta (hole No. 7) and Manibusan (hole No. 11).

A slideshow presentation was also made from SGA tournaments and banquets of yesteryears. Statistics from 2013 was also shared and contributors acknowledged. SGA extends it heartfelt appreciation to all who have in one way or another contributed to club's success.

Meanwhile, SGA's January 2014 Ace of the Month Tournament has been rescheduled to Feb. 2, at 10am at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course. Showtime is 9am. (Saipan Tribune)

## MISO triathlon season kicks off tomorrow

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization is partnering with Tri Saipan to introduce endurance sports to its growing list of sporting events offered to local students. This Saturday marks the first multisport challenge on the student schedule, as aspiring triathletes meet for a three-stage event in Susupe.

Race headquarters is the Fil-Com pavilion and registration opens at 5:30am, while the event gets underway at 6:30am. The inaugural race features a run-swim-run format. Competitors will run from the pavilion along the beach pathway to the Microl Toyota intersection and back before transitioning to the swim course. Once in the water, the racers will swim out to the first World War II-era Sherman Tank in the Saipan lagoon and back before heading out to the final run leg. When they return to the run course, the athletes will proceed north to the Quartermaster intersection where they will turn around at the Japanese tank and head back to the finish

line at the pavilion.

As per the MISO rules, all participants must not have any "F's" on most recent grading period and must have a minimum 2.25GPA. All participants must have a current sports physical (Aug 1 of the year in question) and a MISO parental waiver form signed and submitted. All participants must also be able to get themselves to and from all events.

Organizers anticipate school teams (both men's and women's) of four members to be eligible for the team trophy at the end of the season, while individual awards will be available as well.

After the first leg, MISO and Tri Saipan are expected to have the bike-swim-bike format before eventually doing the swim-bike-run races at the conclusion of the inaugural triathlon season.

For more information about this weekend's event and to secure your athletes' spot, contact Nick Gross via email at [nickgross07@gmail.com](mailto:nickgross07@gmail.com). (Tri Saipan)







Thunder erase early  
18-point hole, top  
Heat, 112-95

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Even if no snow,  
players prep for  
cold Super Bowl

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Rollers 1 and 2 set finals date

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**R**ollers 1 weathered Funky Town Monkey Pimps' second half-storm to pull off a 71-68 victory and bag the last finals berth in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament.

After leading by as much as 21 points at halftime, 48-27, Rollers 1 was threatened when FTMP moved within a deuce on two occasions in the final 1:19 mark of the second semifinals tiff last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

An FTMP 13-4 run for about three minutes turned Rollers 2's double-digit lead, 54-43, to 2, 68-66, with Kautong Omeng-

kar's triples bringing the latter back into the game. He drilled three treys and a layup in the rally, while Alvin Francisco contributed 6 points.

FTMP then had a chance to either tie the game with a 2-point field goal or grab the lead with another trey after Rollers 1 faltered anew on its offensive set, but Tristan Montes lost the ball from the backcourt. Mike Arci-

aga converted FTMP's error to a layup to give Rollers 1 more cushion, 70-68, 45.6 seconds left on the clock.

Another backcourt lapse from Montes turned the ball over to Rollers 1, which also committed a mistake that led to a Francisco fastbreak layoff off a feed from Jason Lampkin. After the helter-skelter plays, Rollers 1's lead was again trimmed down to two, 70-68, and it called a time out in the last 13.8 seconds of the close match.

When the game resumed, Prince Factor drove to the basket and drew a foul on Lampkin. Factor made the first one, but missed the second, giving Rollers 1 a shaky 3-point lead. FTMP collared the rebound and tried to call a time out, but none was given, as a dead ball was needed to halt the play.

See ROLLERS on Page 34

## Southern, SIS prevail in MISO caging



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's Emerson Feria, center, and Daniel Camacho, right, team up in collaring the rebound, while Mount Carmel School's Enrico Del Rosario looks on during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School won a back-and-forth game against Mount Carmel School, 72-66, to notch its second straight victory in the varsity division of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Big men Emerson Feria and Daniel Camacho hit clutch baskets to lift the Manta Rays to the 6-point win and improved the team's record to 2-2, while the Knights remained winless in four games.

Feria made four free throws in the closing minutes of the seesaw battle, while Daniel Camacho split his charities and scored on a point-blank basket to help Southern win the match despite falling behind by as much as 11 points in the first half.

Feria's split tied the game for the last time and the Rays had a chance to break the deadlock when Jun Javier collared the offensive board after the former missed his second free throw. However, Javier missed, while the Knights went to attack the basket with spitfire Quinn Amog eventually drawing a foul on Daniel Camacho.

Amog then succumbed to pressure, going 0-for-2 from the See SOUTHERN on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 1's Prince Factor drives against FTMP's Jason Lampkin, left, and Tristan Montes during the second half of their semis game in the Sun Palace caging last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## MHS remains flawless in MISO v'ball



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Kagman High School player makes a return, while her teammates looks on during a game against Saipan International School in the MISO volleyball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Marianas High School is the only undefeated squad in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

The Lady Dolphins gained the solo lead and a perfect 5-0 record after beating erstwhile co-leaders Saipan International School (4-1) and Mount Carmel School (4-1). The Lady Geckos met MHS On Jan. 23 in the second game on the southern court at the MHS Gymnasium and won the first two sets of their match to clinch the early win.

Though MHS swept SIS in See MHS on Page 34